

Twenty-first Sunday (Year B)

22nd August 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a green cloth on the table or floor (green – the colour for Ordinary Time)

Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

- YouTube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required



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Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: In today's gospel, Peter professes his belief in Jesus as the bread of life. Peter tells Jesus that he will continue to follow him because he is God's Holy One.

Opening prayer:

Loving God, let us trust and follow you because we know that you love us and want what is best for us. You speak words of truth and of eternal life. Amen

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (6:60-69)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Many of Jesus' disciples heard him speak about the bread of life and said, "This is too hard for anyone to understand."

Jesus knew that many of his disciples were grumbling. So he asked, "Does this bother you? What if you should see the Son of Man go up to heaven where he came from?"

"The Spirit is the one who gives life! Human strength can do nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are from that life-giving Spirit. But some of you refuse to have faith in me."

Jesus said this, because from the beginning he knew who would have faith in him. He also knew which one would betray him. Then Jesus said, "You cannot come to me, unless the Father makes you want to come. That is why I have told these things to all of you."

Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and stopped following him.

Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they were going to leave him. Simon Peter answered, "Lord, there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life. We have faith in you, and are sure that you are God's Holy One."

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the video together

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYkvjq6pG1Y&t=121s>

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder how Jesus was feeling when he was speaking to his disciples...

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, 'human strength can do nothing'

I wonder how Jesus knew who would have faith in him...

I wonder where the disciples who turned their backs went...

I wonder what Simon Peter and the other disciples were thinking when they saw this...

I wonder where you are in this reading...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe - John Burland ft. Genevieve Bryant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVkgGQ> (4 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(*We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer'*)

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders: that they will bring people together both in the hard times and times of celebration.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for those who are preparing for or have received their sacraments. That they will continue to follow and trust in Jesus.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray that members of our Church may work toward solidarity among all people.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for those who may feel separated from their families or alone that they will know the presence of God.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: We lift up our hearts and the prayers of our community. We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing song: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffKf4WCtgEA> (2:43min)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has end.

- **Prayer journal**

Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).

- **Colouring in**

Jesus, the Bread of life <https://kidadl.com/free-coloring-pages/bible/jesus-the-bread-of-life>

- **Craft**

Make a craft that will help you reflect on today's gospel reading

<https://www.jesus-without-language.net/bread-of-life-matthew-14-make-2/>

- **Family Connection**

As you gather as a family, talk about promise that parents make at their child's baptism to teach their child about Jesus and the faith of the Church. Talk about the importance of this... and about some of the things that you are doing to try to honour this commitment.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/21st-sunday-of-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>