

Welcome to Week 4!

4th Sunday of Lent Gospel - John 9:1-41

Healing of the blind man

As Jesus went along, he came across a blind man. He told his disciples that it was not the man's fault that he was blind, but that he was born blind so that the works of God might be revealed in him. Then Jesus revealed God's power by giving the man his sight. Many people could not accept this miracle and questioned the man and his parents. But the man showed that Jesus had given him much more than just the sight of his eyes - he ended up seeing who Jesus really was and following Him.

Jesus, I ask you for the gift of the light of your Truth into my heart and mind. Holy Spirit, give me courage so that I may tell others about God by my words and actions, even those who doubt or who do not care about Jesus.

Laetare Sunday (Sun Mar 19th)

The 4th (middle) Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday or 'rejoicing' Sunday (named after the words of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass 'Laetare Jerusalem ...' or 'Rejoice O Jerusalem...'). On Laetare Sunday the Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of our Lenten fasts and penances, with Easter in sight. The colour rose is used to represent this.

It is also called 'Mothering Sunday' - nowadays we remember our mothers and give them thankful cards and gifts, though in times past people used celebrate their baptism by visiting their 'mother' church, i.e. where they were baptised.

Am I joyful in my fasting and almsgiving? Do I have true hope in Jesus and Heaven which He has won for us? Do I love God with all my heart?

Saint Joseph 20th March

Joseph, who was a carpenter, was betrothed to Mary when the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus in her womb. It was a big problem to be expecting a baby before being married, but an angel told Joseph to marry Mary anyway. Joseph was such a good and holy man that he obeyed the angel, and he loved and cared for Mary and his stepson Jesus. He made sure that Mary and the baby she was expecting were safe on the dangerous journey to Bethlehem for the Roman census, and afterwards took them to Egypt to escape Herod who wanted to kill Jesus because Herod knew Jesus was a king. He made sure that the Holy Family observed the Jewish Law and took his family to the Temple for Jesus to be presented to God, and, later, to Jerusalem when Jesus was about twelve.

Saint Joseph is a very important saint and is the patron saint of many things, among them fathers and workers. Traditionally in the Catholic church, the month of March is dedicated to him.

Do I need help to focus on my schoolwork or any household chores I have been given? Do my mother or father or guardians need help finding work or looking after me? Saint Joseph pray for us.

The Annunciation 25th March

The Feast of the Annunciation is exactly nine months before Christmas, Jesus' birthday, because Mary was pregnant with Jesus for nine months. On this day, the Angel Gabriel visited the young virgin, Mary. Gabriel told her that, if she was willing, she would conceive and bear a son, the Son of the Most High, who would rule over the House of Jacob for ever and ever. Mary did not understand how she could have a baby because she was not married, but the angel told her that the power of the Holy Spirit would conceive Jesus in her womb. Mary herself had been conceived without sin, and had never sinned in her whole life, and so, because of her goodness and purity, she was able to agree to all of this, even though it was frightening. She said she was willing with the famous words '*be it done to me according to thy word*'. Mary has many titles, some of which begin with 'Queen' such as 'Queen of Heaven' or 'Queen of Peace', or with 'Mother' such as 'Mother of Mercy'. If you want to know more about her titles, look up the Litany of Loretto.

Do I love Mary as my heavenly mother? Do I need her help to follow her example and give my own 'yes' to our loving God? Do I need her help, to say sorry when I do something wrong? Immaculate heart of Mary, pray for us.

Belong and Believe!

Activity

- ❖ Use the colour rose in your prayer corner this Sunday
- ❖ Make a card or gift for your mother
- ❖ Do something nice for those who look after you, to thank them 😊

Prayer

- ❖ Pray for all the children making their First Reconciliation at the weekend
- ❖ Pray a decade of the rosary for peace in the world, focusing on the Annunciation.

You could watch this short video about how to pray the rosary and to join in to pray one decade, the first Joyful Mystery which is the Annunciation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWSSYHuq3zq>

Here is another video where Sr explains how to pray a decade of the rosary as a family: <https://youtu.be/EwOa84NecbE>

Of course, you could pray all 5 Joyful Mysteries if you like! They are:

- The Annunciation
 - The Visitation (Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth)
 - The Nativity (the birth of our Lord Jesus)
 - The Presentation of Child Jesus in the Temple
 - The Finding of the Jesus in the Temple
- ❖ Pray to St Joseph for those who look after you, and for your parish priests. You might like to pray the St Joseph prayer with your family.



St. Joseph Prayer

O blessed Joseph, faithful guardian of my Redeemer, Jesus Christ, protector of thy chaste spouse, the virgin Mother of God, I choose thee this day to be my special patron and advocate and I firmly resolve to honor thee all the days of my life.

Therefore I humbly beseech thee to receive me as thy client, to instruct me in every doubt, to comfort me in every affliction, to obtain for me and for all the knowledge and love of the Heart of Jesus, and finally to defend and protect me at the hour of my death.

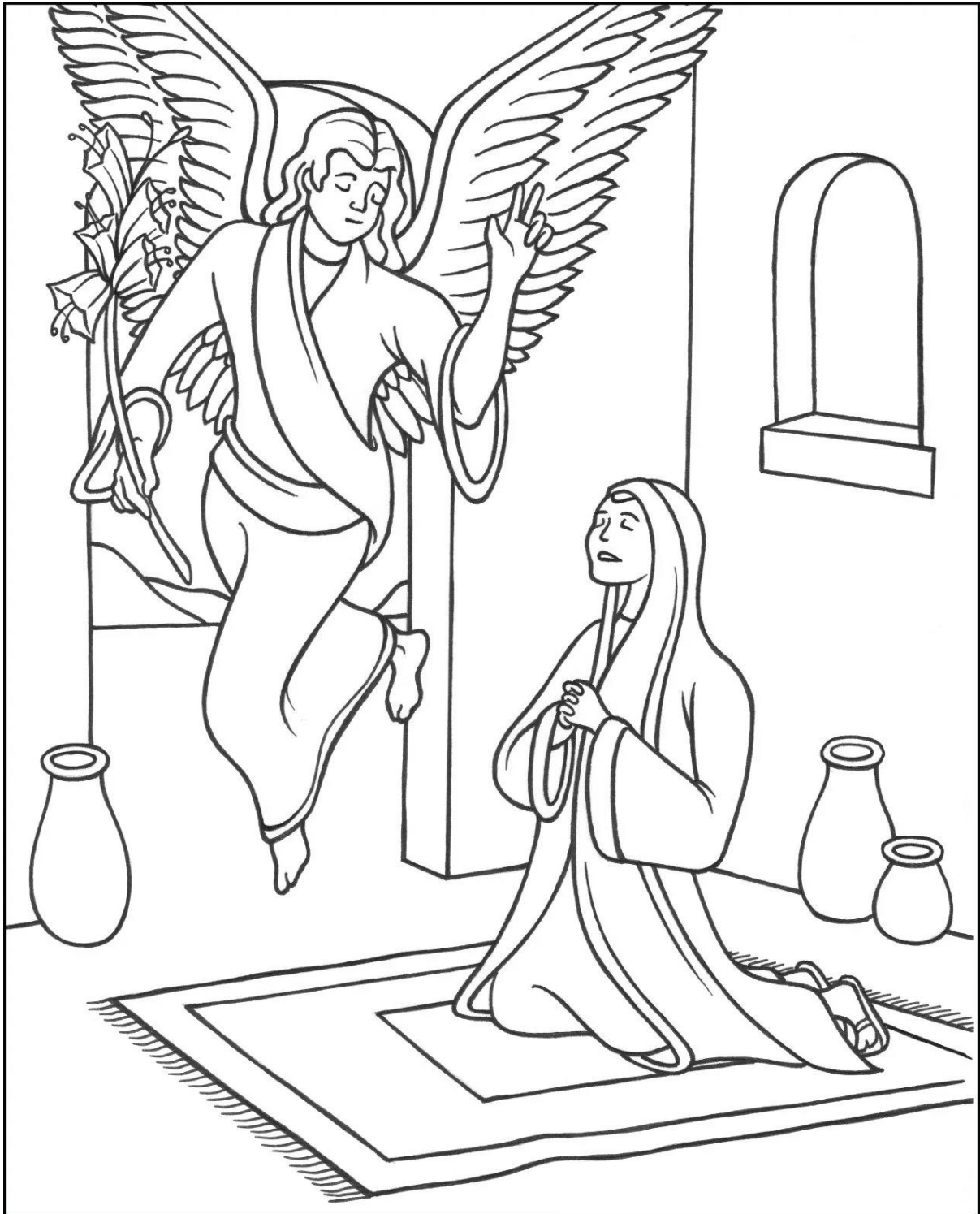
Amen



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