

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

## Keep in touch

### INTRODUCTION

Before Jesus left his friends and returned to his Father in Heaven, he prayed that God would stay close to them and watch over them always. In their prayers, they would keep in touch with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 1: *Flicker, flicker little candle.*

### SORRY

Allow the children a short period of contemplation, to think about the events of the past week. Encourage them to examine their consciences. Choose a 'sorry colour' Prayer.

### GLORIA

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3: *Alleluia, Alleluia.*

### GOSPEL (cf John 17:4-11)

Jesus looked up to Heaven and said: 'Father, I have finished the work you sent me to do, and have told my friends all about you. They know that you sent me here, and that through your power, I have been able to do many wonderful things. They have listened to me teaching and they truly believe in you. Father, I pray that you will keep them safe and watch over them always. When I have gone, the world will still be able to see the glory of God through their faith and love.'

### DISCUSSION

When Jesus needed to feel very close to his Father, what did he do? – He would pray.

Can you remember some of the times when Jesus prayed?

- in the Garden of Gethsemane, before he was betrayed by Judas.
- before he raised Lazarus from the dead.
- during the Last Supper, before he broke the bread.

Jesus spent a great deal of time praying to his Father. Often he would go off to a quiet place where he would not be disturbed. Like us, Jesus needed to share his worries and problems with his heavenly Father; he knew that he was never alone.

Why is it important for us to pray? – Praying is

having a conversation with God. We talk to God and he listens, and then while we listen, God can talk to us too. In this way we get to know God better, we keep in touch.

Do you pray? When do you pray?

We don't have to have special times for saying prayers. Often we say them at bedtime, but we can talk to God at any time.

Do you ever feel unsure about what to say to God? – God our Father likes to hear about everything we have to tell him, and he is always ready to listen.

The apostles knew how important it was to pray to God, but like us, they often felt uncertain about what to say. One day they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. What was the prayer he taught them? – The Lord's Prayer. (*Our Father.*)

When we pray it is important to remember several things

- prayers can be simple thoughts and words coming straight from the heart.
- spend a little time with God each day, it doesn't matter where or when.
- sometimes God doesn't seem to give us what we pray for. Do not give up praying, keep on talking to God and listening, for he knows what is best for you, even if it is not what you expected.
- when we pray, we don't just ask God for things we want. Remember to praise and thank him for his goodness, to tell him about ourselves and others and say sorry if we have done wrong.
- share your prayers with other people, at school, at home, at Church. Jesus said, 'When two or three of you gather together in my name, I'll be there with you.' The Holy Spirit helps us to pray, even if we do not know what to say to God. God will understand us without having to use words.

### ACTIVITY

Give each child their own copy of the Lord's Prayer to colour and decorate.

### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Together we say the prayer which Jesus himself taught us.

Say the Lord's Prayer, or 'Our Father'.