

Living Love

The Gospel

With your children complete the following sentences.

At Mass on **S** _____ **y** we hear four passages of scripture read or sung. These are

- The First Reading, which usually comes from the **Old** _____.
- The second passage is the **P** _____, a prayer in song. The ancient tradition is that many of these **p** _____ were written by King David.
- The third passage is usually counted as being The **S** _____ Reading! It comes from the New Testament, and from letters written by Apostles such as **St P** __ **I**, or **St P** _____, or **St J** _____.
- The last reading, and the most important of them all is the Gospel itself. The Bible contains four Gospels: the Gospel according to **M** _____; and _____ **k**; and _____ **u** _____; and **J** _____.

A family quiz

What do we do to show the importance of the Gospel reading at Mass, and make it stand out as special? See how many ways you can think of (There are more than five!)

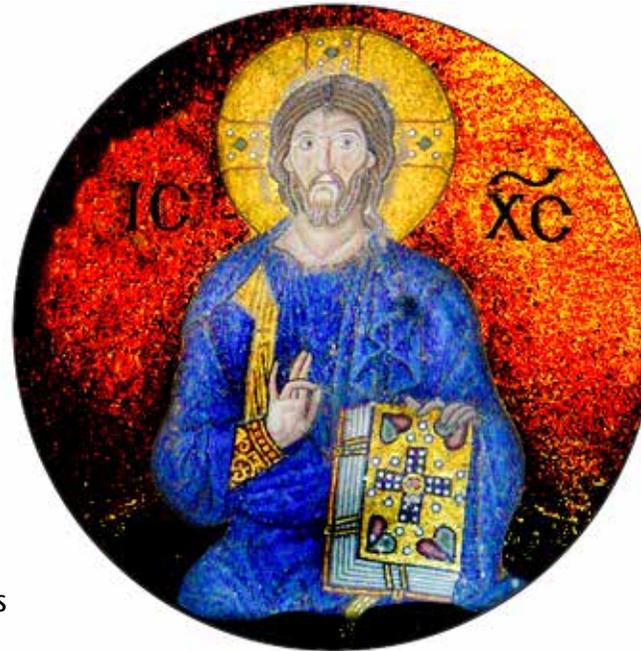
Answers will be in next week's newsletter.

The Gospel & your Family

Your example and help will make a great difference to how your children learn to understand and respond to the Gospel.

Here are three suggestions of ways to help them..

1. Ask them what they talked about today in the *Liturgy of the Word for Children*. Share with them your own thoughts about the Gospel. This sort of conversation helps reinforce what they have learnt, and show that it is something important for you and them.
2. Use the *Wednesday Word*, perhaps on Wednesday evening, to share in the family what the children have learnt at school, and to take it a stage further.
3. Before you come to Sunday Mass, spend a little time together as a family listening again to the Gospel.
 - Invite a different family member to read the Gospel each week, and read it from a family bible. *You will find the reference to the reading on the bottom of the back page of the previous week's newsletter.*
 - After the reading have a moment of silence, and then maybe identify one thing from the Gospel that you want to thank God for and one thing to ask God to help you to do. Don't worry if your children can't identify anything: share your thoughts with them, share your faith with them.



Dear Parents

Welcome to the first of an occasional series of take-home sheets to support you in your responsibility for raising your children in our Catholic faith — to know God, and keep his commandments as Christ taught them to us, by loving God and our neighbour; and learn how to take an active part in the Mass.

There are many ways in which parents can help their younger children engage with the Mass – but two of the most important are helping the children learn the importance of the two high-points of the Mass — the Gospel and the Eucharist.

Their importance — and why they are important — is unlikely to be clear to children unless we take care to support and develop their awareness and their own personal relationship with Gospel and Eucharist.

School and parish have a part to play here, but the most powerful help in this will come from you as parents – from your own reverence and prayerful participation in the Mass, and your own developing relationship with God, Father, Son and Spirit. It is well said that, often, 'faith is caught not taught'.

Thank you for all you do and try to do. You are in my prayers!

Fr. Allen