

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 September 2024 - Year B

***“You must take up your cross and follow me.”***

### Something to Think About

How do people show that they believe in God?

What sorts of things do they do? How do they act towards others? How do they speak to others?

### The Story

In today's story, Jesus tells us that we must take up our cross and follow him. In Jesus' time, a criminal would carry a large wooden cross that was bigger than an adult person. The wooden crosses were heavy and difficult to carry. Jesus didn't mean we should carry a real cross. He meant that following Jesus would not be easy. He meant that we should obey Jesus even when we don't feel like it and even when it is really hard.

### The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

8:31-35

Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him.

He said, "The nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly.

He will be rejected and killed, but three days later he will rise to life."

Then Jesus explained clearly what he meant.

Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that.

But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples, he corrected Peter.

He said to him, "Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God."

Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said:

"If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself.

You must take up your cross and follow me.

If you want to save your life, you will destroy it.

But if you give up your life for me and for the good news, you will save it."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video for some ways to take up your cross:

[The Science of Kindness](#)



## Group Discussion

Following Jesus is something we put into action in our lives.

Talk about the good deeds each person has done recently. Ask everyone to try and look for ways to help people this week – it may be just to listen or to make someone laugh.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader 1:* We pray that we will follow Jesus every day. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray that that we will understand what God wants us to do. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for God's help when things are hard. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for God's blessing on those people who have heavy worries today. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will show our love for Jesus by loving others. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear Jesus,  
We want to follow you always.  
Help us to use our lives to help  
others and to spread your love in  
the world.  
Amen.

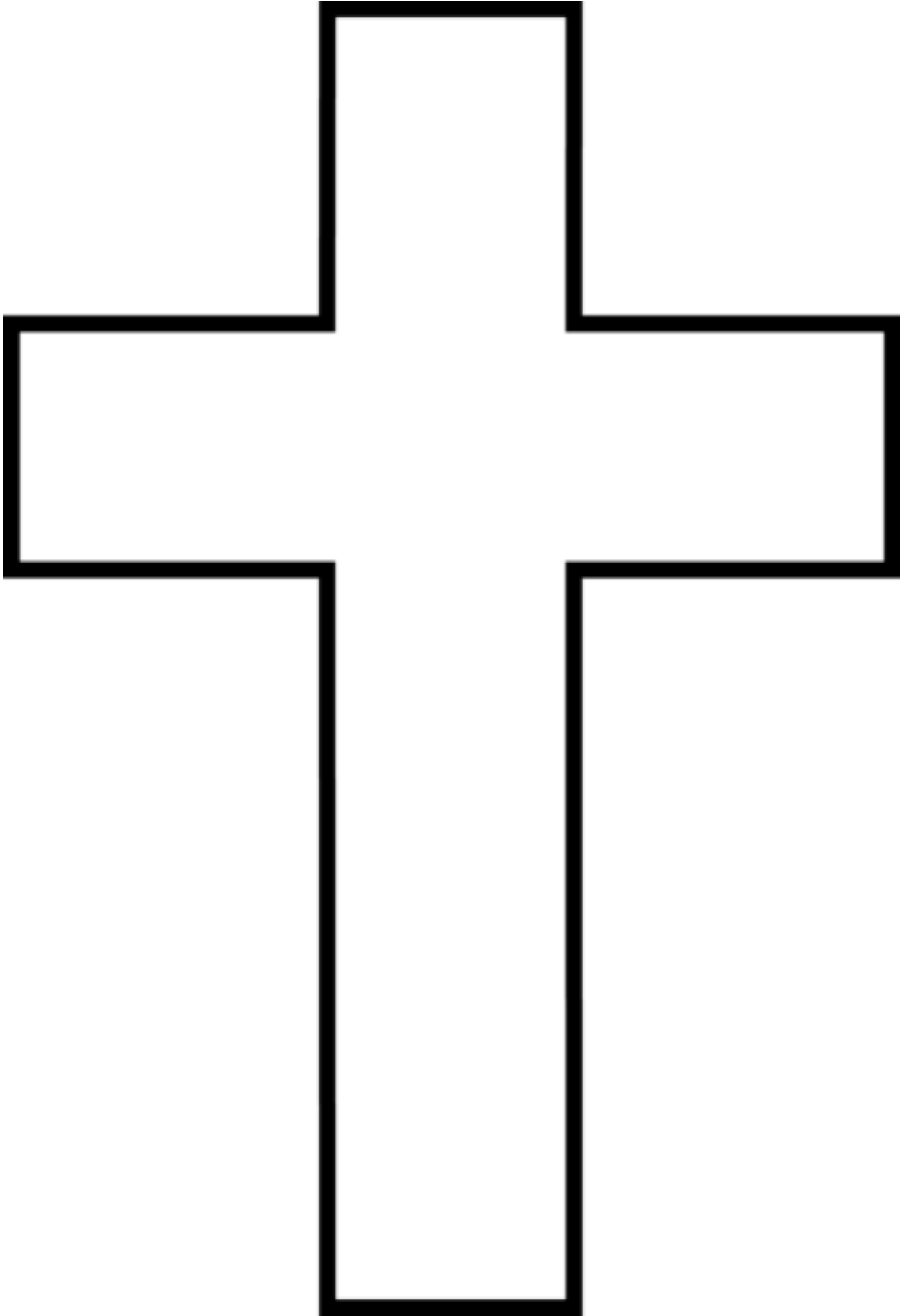
## Group Activity

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

*You will need: a template for each child printed on A4 or A3 paper, paper in different colours torn into small pieces (you may like to use tissue paper), a bowl for each paper colour, paper plates, craft glue, brushes or sponges to apply the glue.*

1. Suggest that children select one or two colours for the cross, and one or two colours for the surrounding area.
2. Squirt some craft glue onto each paper plate and give each child a paintbrush or sponge brush.
3. Invite children to apply glue to a small area at a time, and then press in the small pieces of paper.
4. Then repeat Step Three until the mosaic is complete.





**JESUS SAID:**

**YOU MUST FORGET  
ABOUT YOURSELF,**



**YOU MUST TAKE  
UP YOUR CROSS  
AND FOLLOW ME.**

**WE FOLLOW  
JESUS BY BEING  
KIND TO OTHER  
PEOPLE.**

**FOLLOW THE PATHWAY TO JESUS**

