

AT HOME WITH

ALIVE-O

7

To _____

TERM 1 No. 2
(October/November)

From _____

To Memorise at Home

Q. Why do Christians honour Mary?

A. Christians honour Mary because she is the mother of Jesus and our mother.

Let us honour the saints because they loved God and are united with him forever in heaven. May they help us by their prayers.

Q. What does the Bible tell us about sin?

A. The Bible tells us that sin came into the world through disobedience and that all people are sinners and need a saviour.

Q. What do we call the first sin?

A. We call the first sin 'original sin'.

Q. Who is the saviour of the world?

A. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, is the saviour of the world.

Original Sin

Sin came into the world, originally, through people's disobedience.

Jesus Christ came to save people from that original sin, and from all sin that follows from it.

'To be truly free does not mean doing everything that pleases me, or doing what I want to do...

To be truly free means to use one's own freedom for what is a true good.'

(Pope John Paul II, *Dilecti amici*)

Do

Identify False Gods

Invite your child to think of one thing that can enslave children today and stop them from being free to be the unique people God wants them to be.

Make a list of 'False gods to beware of today'.

Pray

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy;

Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope!

To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve;

To you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then, most gracious advocate,

Your eyes of mercy towards us;

And after this our exile,

Show to us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may

Be made worthy of the promises of Christ.



New Mysteries of the Rosary

October is Mary's month. The new Mysteries of Light are:

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus
5. Jesus gives us the Eucharist

Consider...

- that the two people in 'The Garden Story' represent humankind in the beginning.
- that, in the beginning, God offered goodness and love; but a harmful choice was freely made, and sin, the bitter fruit of that choice, came into the world.
- wrong choices that you have *freely* made.
- the consequences of those choices.
- that we still make wrong choices today.
- that we still need to follow the path Jesus has created for us.

Readings from *Alive-0 7...*

Icons

Through the centuries, artists have helped spread the message of Christianity.

One special art form, called an 'icon', became popular in Eastern Europe and Russia. The word 'icon' comes from the Greek word for 'image'. An icon usually has no frame and was normally painted on wood. Icon painters followed particular rules when painting. There is no shadow in an icon, yet it will appear bright because it always has a layer of goldleaf painted on it. The gold was to represent the presence of God as light. An icon always seems very peaceful and tranquil.

Many icon painters were monks and nuns living in monasteries. They had to be people of prayer because an icon was considered more than just a painting. Icons were only painted after much prayer, reflection and meditation. Icon painters never signed their work because they believed they were really working in co-operation with the Holy Spirit. They believed that the icon they painted revealed something of the Holy Spirit within it.

Although most icons are of figures looking straight out, they are not portraits in the normal sense. Usually, we, the viewers, look closely at a painting to see what is happening in it. With an icon, it is as if the eyes of the figure are gazing at us. That is why an icon 'holds' our attention. Nowadays, we don't speak of someone 'painting' an icon. Instead, we say that an icon is 'written' by the iconographer. We need to sit and gaze at an icon in silence to 'hear' in our hearts what it is saying to us.

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Extract from a Buddhist poem

Let no one deceive another.
Let no one despise another in any situation.
Let no one from antipathy or hatred
Wish evil to anyone at all.
Just as a mother with her own life
Protects her son, her only son, from hurt,
So within your own self foster
A limitless concern for every living creature.
Display a heart of boundless love
For all the world
In all its height and depth and broad extent,
Love unrestrained, without hate or enmity.
Then as you stand or walk, sit or lie,
Until overcome by drowsiness
Devote your mind entirely to this.
It is known as living here a life divine.

(T. Berry)

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The Garden Story

One day, while they were on a break, a girl called Emma and a boy called Thomas sat listening to a story...

'The Lord God took a handful of soil and made a man. God breathed life into the man and the man started breathing.'

'And has been breathing ever since,' Thomas added matter-of-factly.

'And continues in us,' said Emma.

The Reader continued... 'God made a woman too and put the man and the woman in a garden

called Eden. The Lord God placed all kinds of beautiful plants and fruit trees in the garden...'

'Sounds like the perfect place; I wouldn't mind living there,' said Emma.

'Imagine...' said Thomas, 'nothing to do but enjoy life all day long.' He sighed a contented sigh.

'Go on Reader,' said Emma.

'Two other trees were in the middle of the garden,' the Reader continued. 'One of the trees was the Tree of Life...'

'That must have been an interesting tree – I wonder what it looked like,' Thomas mused.

'...and what its fruit tasted like,' Emma continued.

The Reader paused and waited patiently.

'All fruit is good and nourishes a healthy life,' Emma said, as much to herself as to Thomas, '...but a Tree of Life – that must have had special fruit indeed!'

'I suppose it would, but what would it taste like and how could you tell when it was ripe for eating?' Thomas asked.

'I'd imagine that, in such a lovely garden, a Tree of Life would have fruit that would taste good no matter when you'd eat it; it'd always be ripe and you'd never die as long as you had such fruit to eat,' Emma suggested.

'You're probably right,' Thomas agreed.

The Reader continued reading... 'The other tree gave power to know both good and bad.'

'I wonder what that tree looked like; I bet its fruit was quite different to the fruit on the Tree of Life,' Emma reflected.

'Fruit that gives power to know the difference between good and bad... that must have had a bitter-sweet taste, don't you think?' Thomas asked.

'You could be right; life certainly has both bitter moments and sweet moments,' said Emma.

'What is the most bitter thing you've ever tasted?' Emma asked, turning to Thomas.

Thomas thought for a moment. 'A sloe,' he replied. 'One day in school, when I was in Infants, we went for a nature walk. I tasted a sloe... Yeugh,' he said, making a face. 'Sloes are the most bitter fruit in the whole world. What's the bitterest thing you've ever tasted?'

Now it was Emma's turn to think. 'Disappointment,' she announced.

'That's not a fruit – not a real fruit; you can't taste disappointment,' Thomas agreed.

'Oh yes you can, and I have. We trained and practised so hard and were so built up for that schools final last year – and then we lost. That was disappointment, and it was as bitter as any sloe, believe me.'

The Reader coughed 'Hmm hmm!' as a sign that she was about to go on...