



Welcome to the RE Newsletter.

Pope Francis, in his prayer intention for the month of June 2020 has asked everyone to pray for those who are suffering, as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to inflict all sorts of difficulties around the world. It has become the custom of Pope Francis to release a video message detailing his prayer intention for each month.

Maybe we can choose to pray this prayer each day of June, remembering all of those people who need compassion.

Many people suffer due to the great difficulties they endure.

We can help them by accompanying them along an itinerary full of compassion which transforms people's lives.

It brings them closer to the Heart of Christ, which welcomes all of us into the revolution of tenderness.

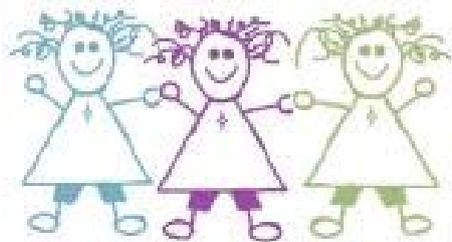
We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

Home Learning

A workbook for you to complete at home has been designed for this Half Term for our next topic: The Kingdom of God. The booklet has activities for younger and older children, and there is a video to accompany the booklet. Margaret Carswell appears on the video - she writes the Unit Plans we follow at St Mary's. Choose the activity that you feel you can complete.

The booklet can either be printed off and completed or you can do the activities into your Home Learning book.

Miss Scott



KIP and Friends Learning at Home: A5 (a)

The Kingdom of Heaven

Workbook Video Link: <https://youtu.be/RnHDxtwALeM>

Chat with KIP & Friends Link (Questions & Comments):
<https://padlet.com/margaretfcarswell/7dpwxmxbyrcfm7uq>

How to use this workbook!

What I think about your 'work at home' time!

I think you will have either a book to work in at home, or some paper to work on. I think you will have pencils or pens to write with and maybe some coloured pencils.

I also think you will have access to the internet.

You *might* have a printer and glue and scissors. If you have a printer you can print this book off and do the activities using the pages in it, or, cut out the pictures and paste them into your book.

If you don't have a printer, copy what you need into your workbook.

You will need to choose what activities you can do and which ones you can't! Easier activities are listed first.

This workbook is to help you learn:

1. About Matthew's parables of the Kingdom of Heaven

The **information is in red**: the activities are in **black**

Last workbook you learned about people who live – or who have lived – the spirit of Pentecost. In this workbook we think about the kind of world we want to live in: Matthew calls it the Kingdom of Heaven. Although we think we will know much more about God’s Kingdom after we die, we believe it is already here now! The Kingdom of Heaven has already started!

Matthew writes about the Kingdom of Heaven in a type of story called a parable. So, first, let’s learn about parables!

- 1. A parable is a type of narrative.**
- 2. Parables are always made up; they haven’t happened (although they talk about everyday things so they *could have* happened).**
- 3. Parables are short; they compare two things. One is called the subject; the other is called the vehicle. It’s a funny word but it’s called that as it ‘carries meaning.’**
- 4. You have to figure out what parables mean.**

Some things to do! (younger and older pupils)

1. Let’s play with this parable. It’s about my (Margaret’s) bedroom.

My bedroom.... is like a rubbish bin that someone came and dumped a whole lot of rubbish into!

What is the subject? (My bedroom)

2. Draw the subject (my bedroom...it has a big bed in it, a lamp and a table by my bed for my radio and book. Don’t forget to draw my little white dog Alfie on my bed where he sleeps.)



What is the vehicle? (a rubbish bin that someone dumped rubbish into)

3. Draw the vehicle (someone dumping rubbish into a bin...you can imagine that!)

Now the tricky bit.

The thing about parables is that your brain has to think about everything it knows about the subject (my bedroom) and the vehicle (rubbish bins) and sort out which things about rubbish bins *could be true about* my bedroom too! So...

- Rubbish bins are sometimes messy...could my bedroom be messy? YES!
- Rubbish bins can be full of things...could my bedroom be full of things? YES
- Rubbish bins are pretty small ...could my bedroom be that small? NO!
- Rubbish bins sometimes have a plastic bag liner in them...could my bedroom have one of those too? NO!

4. Draw what you think the parable is saying about my bedroom!

Now let's think about a parable from Matthew's Gospel

The Kingdom of Heaven

Although every Gospel talks about how Jesus wants us to build a new, fairer, more *just* world, Matthew's Gospel talks about this more than any other Gospel writer does. Other Gospel writers talk about this new world as the Kingdom of God, Matthew calls it the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Kingdom of Heaven isn't a real place – it's a place in our minds and hearts where we imagine that God is in charge (like a king) and everyone lives their very best selves – the way God hoped we would.

Some things to do! (younger pupils)

5a. Look at the emojis. Put a circle around (or list) all the feelings you think people would have in God's kingdom.

 LOVED	 HAPPY	 CONTENT	 SLEEPY	 SAD	 HEARTBROKEN	 STRESSED	 WORRIED	 ANGRY
 ESTATIC	 WARM	 AFFECTIONATE	 SHOCKED	 ANXIOUS	 HESITANT	 CONFUSED	 DEPRESSED	 BETRAYED
 INTELLIGENT	 LUCKY	 CONFIDENT	 SKEPITCAL	 SCARED	 HELPLESS	 DISAPPOINTED	 IRRITATED	 EXPLOSIVE
 ACCEPTED	 HOPEFUL	 PLAYFUL	 HOPELESS	 INVISIBLE	 FRUSTRATED	 POWERLESS	 DISGUSTED	 VIOLENT
 STRONG	 SILLY	 GOOD	 UNSURE	 EMPTY	 WORTHLESS	 GAURDED	 SNEAKY	 RAGE
 UNBREAKABLE	 EXCITED	 ABANDONED	 LOST	 ALONE	 REJECTED	 TOXIC	 HURT	 OVERWHELMED

Some things to do! (older pupils)

5b. Make a list of all the feelings and actions that you would expect to see and find in God’s kingdom. Use the emojis above to help you, but try to add to it.

Some things to do! (younger and older pupils)

6. Read the Parable of the Mustard seed. Jesus told this parable to a large crowd who came to listen to him speak.

The Kingdom of Heaven... is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches. Mt 13:31-33



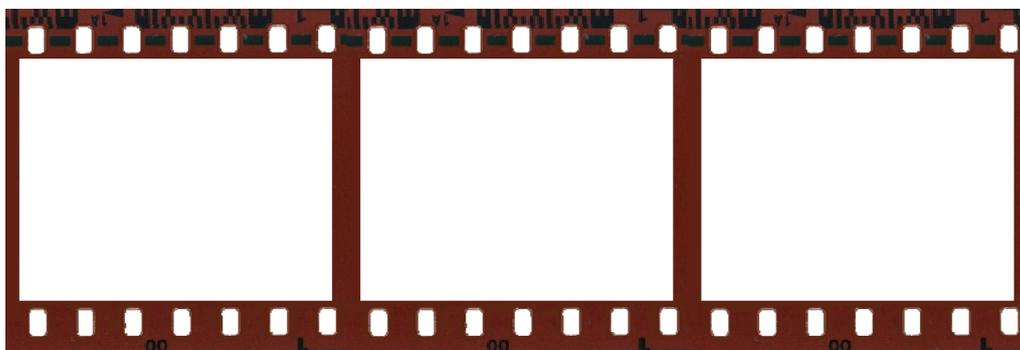
7. Watch the parable in this short video.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifKH0-y7O_I

Some things to do! (younger and older pupils)

What is the subject? The Kingdom of Heaven. A place where we all live our very best selves, the way God wants us to.

What is the vehicle? A man planting a mustard seed in a field. And the mustard (which is a tiny seed), grows into a tree and birds come and perch in its branches.

8. Break the vehicle into three parts: someone planting a tiny seed; it growing into a tree; the birds coming to nest in it. Draw each part in your book.



9 a. (younger pupils)

Make a list of words to show what you feel like in each stage of the parable. (Use the emoji pictures to help you again if you want to.) Write your words under each picture.

- Imagine you are the person planting the seed: how do you feel about what you are doing?
- Imagine you are the seed growing: how do you feel?
- Imagine you are the bird sitting on the branches: how do you feel?

9 b. (older pupils)

Each stage of the parable requires different actions (work) and attitudes. For example, planting the seed requires hard work and determination. Caring for the seed so that it grows requires patience and responsibility. Letting the birds come and nest requires no work, but it needs an attitude of openness and kindness. Write a list of words to describe the work and attitudes required at each stage of the parable; from first planting the seeds, to helping them grow, to the birds coming to nest in the branches.

Now the tricky bit.

10 a. (younger pupils)

Look at the list of feelings you circled or wrote earlier and the list of words you wrote to describe growing seeds. Make a list of the feelings that are in both lists! Use this list to work out what you think Matthew was trying to say about the Kingdom of Heaven? Write down your ideas using some of these sentence starters.

- The Kingdom of Heaven will be...
- In the Kingdom of Heaven we will feel...

10 b. (older pupils)

Think about the Kingdom of Heaven and how it is like planting and growing mustards seeds! Bring your two lists together and compare them: how is living in the Kingdom of Heaven like planting and growing seeds? What do you think Matthew was trying to say about the Kingdom of Heaven? Write down your ideas using some of these sentence starters.

- The Kingdom of Heaven will take...will need...
- In God's kingdom people will...
- God's Kingdom is for...
- God's Kingdom is...
- God's Kingdom demands...
- God's Kingdom values...
- God's Kingdom happens when...

Watch this video and see if the person who made it thought the same as you did!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYmRj3s6JLE>

Some things to do! (older pupils)

12. Repeat the exercise you just did with another parable Jesus told the crowd. What does it tell us about the Kingdom of Heaven?

The Kingdom of Heaven... is like is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Mt 13:44

Some things to do! (younger and older pupils)

12. Grow some carrot tops. Cut the green end off the carrot (about 1 cm thick) and put it onto a saucer or dish of shallow water. Leave it for a week and watch the green leaves sprout. Keep it watered!



13. One of the things I love most about the parable of the mustard seed is that the mustard seed is a safe place for the birds. The parable reminds me that sometimes I will be like the person who plants the seed, spreading kindness in the community. At other times I will be like the person who cares for the growing seedlings, taking care of people around me. Sometimes I will even be the seed; hiding in the ground, waiting to grow. BUT! I might also have times when I am like the birds, needing a safe place and safe people to protect me, in God's Kingdom. That's good news!

Make some birds! These two videos show you how to make birds out of paper.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gz6_YO6YKfA



This one is origami – it's harder!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pdsE5-GWK1Y>

