

Life to the Full:

Living faith within our families

Monthly newsletter for parents: **May 2018**



My Friend

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15: 9-17

In the Gospel for the weekend 5/6 May, Jesus tells us that he doesn’t call us ‘slaves’, he calls us ‘friends’ and that through his death and resurrection we receive the grace to love others as Jesus asks us to. In the Ten Ten assembly, children are reminded that Jesus came to be our friend and that by being friends with others, we become close to Jesus. Those who know Jesus well will love one another, and those who love others will know Jesus well.

For adults

‘Philia’ is a Greek word which means ‘close friendship’ or brotherly / sisterly love. It is one of the four types of love in the

Bible, encompassing love to fellow humans, care, respect and compassion for people in need. However, the most common form of ‘philia’ is friendship.

Take a few moments to personally reflect: when have you experienced ‘philia’ in your life?

Thank God for those times.

For children

Discuss with your child some of the key qualities of friendship.

- What do you like to do with friends?
- When might you need help from a friend?

- What makes a good friend?
- Share some insight into your own personal friendships.

Discuss how these key qualities of good friendship can be related to our relationship with Jesus.



Pray with Children

Jesus said,
“My father in heaven loves me and so now I love you.”
Jesus thank you for choosing me and loving me.
Please help me to love you forever and to always be close to you.
Help us to grow in goodness.
Help me to share your love with others.
Help me to show my love to the people I will meet today and every day in the future.
Jesus, I am so lucky to have you in my life.
You fill my heart with love and joy.
Amen.
In silence, thank Jesus with all of your heart for his friendship.



Watch

George Mizen tells us how friendship with his brother, Jimmy, deepened even after this older sibling died. Watch this film with your son or daughter and consider how

our relationship with Jesus can also deepen. You may like to talk about prayer, the Sacraments, the work of the Holy Spirit, and seeing the face of Jesus in family, friends or nature.

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