

Sunday 3 April 2022

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Passion Sunday



Today's Gospel reading: John 12: 1-8

In the Bible, we see Jesus doing so much for others. Today, we hear about others doing special things for Jesus. Listen to the reading if you can, or find it in your Bible.

Jesus had some very good friends in Bethany – sisters, Martha and Mary and their brother, Lazarus. Each of them had special gifts – things they were really good at. Martha liked to cook and bake and Mary liked to be still and listen to Jesus's stories. Lazarus had very special gifts too.

Today we hear how Martha and Mary showed their love for Jesus by offering their best to serve him. Martha served a lovely meal and Mary's gift was to use some very expensive oil to anoint Jesus's feet. Mary wanted to show Jesus that he was worth more than the most expensive thing she could think of.

Jesus thinks each of us is priceless too!

If you are with us at our service you can colour a price tag for yourself to take home and remind you of this ☞ .

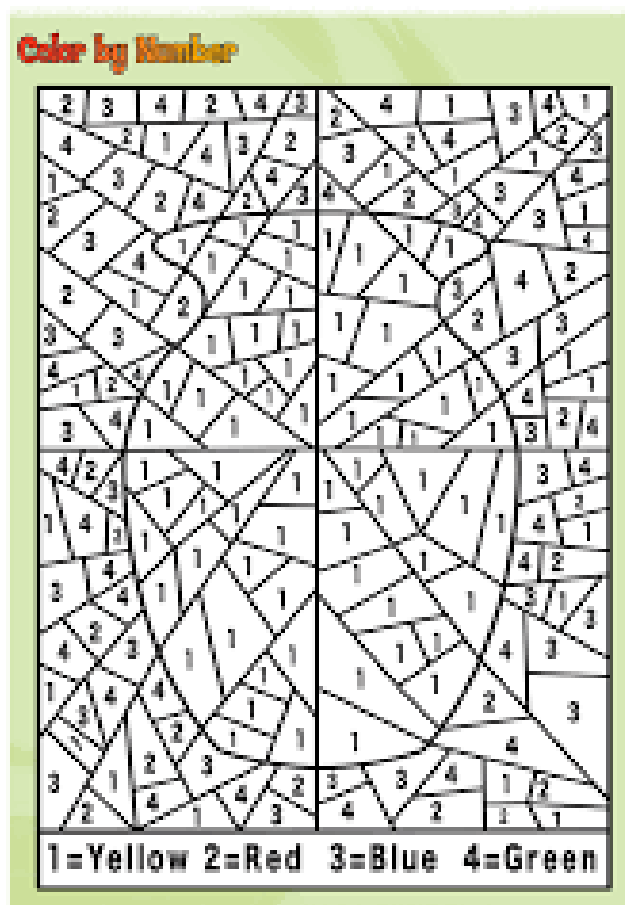
We each have special gifts. What are you good at? Can you draw a picture or make a Play-Doh model to show your special gift?

Jesus loves us to use our gifts to help others, especially those who need help.

We need to be willing to give our best for Jesus, because he gave everything for us.



Can you colour this to see Mary's jar of perfume?



A picture for you to colour



🙄 A bit more to think about for older children:

Pouring oil on someone's feet and wiping them with your hair may seem a strange way to show love and respect for them, but had a deeper meaning, to do with value and worth. What is the most expensive thing you can think of? If you had a lot of money, what would you buy? Do our special possessions mean more to us than anything else?

We need to make sure that our love of God is greater than our love for anything else. This is what Mary wanted to show.

Q. Can you remember other people who brought expensive ointment to Jesus? (Clue: It was near the beginning of his life).

A. The three wise men brought myrrh among their gifts.

Q. Why do you think Judas criticised Mary? Why did Jesus defend her?

A. Judas simply saw the cost of the perfumed oil and thought it wasteful.

Jesus saw the love and the meaning behind Mary's action. He reminded everyone that nothing is worth more than God's love. All the stuff we have and all the money in the world is unimportant, compared with following Jesus.

🙏 A prayer for this week:

Dear God, it's wonderful to read about Martha and Mary and their love for Jesus, help us to remember that we can give thanks to Jesus in our own special way too and always put Jesus first in our lives. Amen.

Here is a picture of an alabaster jar of oil similar to the one that Mary used.



On a separate piece of paper, can you design a jar for Mary's perfume?

Some puzzles for you:

Jesus Anointed with Perfume

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. John 12:3 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 12:1-8

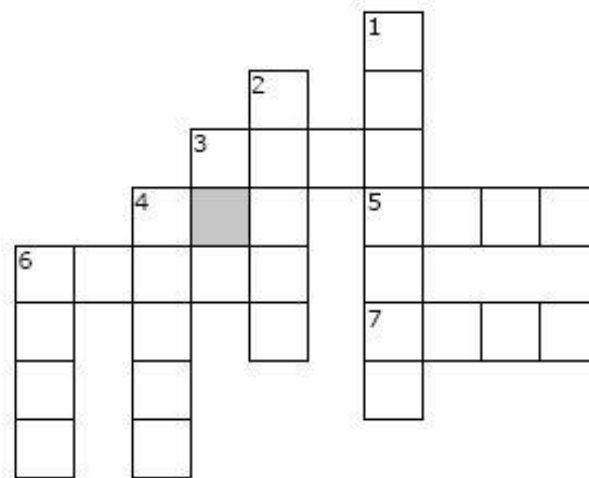
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A J C M A R Y A M Z E I R R M
B N R A C N D B S A Q E F V Y
C V N U C U V D Q R R F U B R
V C H I J E N F X U I L M X D
E X P E N S I V E S O E E G K

EXPENSIVE	MARTHA	FRAGRANCE	JUDAS	HOUSE
POURED	JESUS	PERFUME	WIPED	MARY
THIEF	HAIR	LAZARUS	MONEY	FEET

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. John 12:3 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 12:1-8 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. The opposite of rich
5. The part of the body on which a person stands
6. The building in which a family lives
7. The woman who poured perfume on the feet of Jesus

DOWN

1. A liquid produced and sold for its pleasant smell
2. What we use to buy things
4. The disciple who betrayed Jesus
6. What grows on the head of a person

perfume	hair	money	Judas
feet	house	poor	Mary