



# ROAD TO EMMAUS & THE MASS MATCHING ACTIVITY

## BACKGROUND

During preparation for First Communion, children become more familiar with the Mass including the parts of the Mass: the gathering and welcome, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the blessing and dismissal. At Mass, Jesus is present in the priest and the people gathered, the Word of God and in the Eucharist - all things through which we can encounter him. This activity encourages children to reflect on the ways Jesus is present at Mass using the story of the Road to Emmaus.

The Road to Emmaus is the scripture account of when, on the day Jesus rose from the dead, two of His followers were walking to the village of Emmaus. As they talked about everything that had happened, Jesus joined them—but they didn't recognise Him.

He asked what they were discussing, and they shared their sadness and confusion. Jesus then began to explain how all that was written in the scriptures was being fulfilled in Jesus and in his suffering and resurrection. When they reached Emmaus, they invited Him to stay with them. At dinner, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them—and in that moment, their eyes were opened, and they recognised Him. Then He vanished from their sight.

Filled with joy and awe, they said, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road?" They immediately returned to Jerusalem to share the news with the other disciples all they had seen and heard from Jesus.

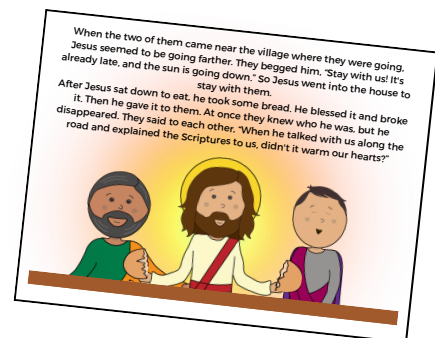
## INTRODUCTION

In this activity, the children will become more familiar with the story and consider the way in which it helps us to understand how we can encounter Jesus in the Mass.

This activity may be done as a whole group in its entirety, alternatively, the matching portion of the activity may be done in small groups or as individuals (see further details below).

## YOU WILL NEED:

- A bible (we suggest reading this from a bible - Contemporary English Version is the translation in the Children's Lectionary and the version used here).
- Matching posters/cards
  - Whole group option
    - 1 large set of Parts of the Mass posters and Road to Emmaus posters printed
  - Individual or small group option
    - Small sets of Parts of the Mass and Road to Emmaus cards printed - one set for each child or small group





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## INSTRUCTIONS

Begin by explaining to the children the four parts of the Mass by showing them the four corresponding posters:

- the Gathering and welcome
- the Liturgy of the Word
- the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- the Blessing and dismissal

Then tell the children that you are going to read a scripture about something that happened on the day that Jesus rose again. Explain that this scripture helps us to think about how Jesus is present with us in the Mass.

Read the Road to Emmaus in its entirety.

When you have finished reading the scripture, show the children the four corresponding posters for the scripture of the Road to Emmaus.

Invite the children to match the Road to Emmaus scripture posters with the Parts of the Mass posters they believe correspond with each other.

- Options
  - Complete this as a whole group and engage the children in discussing why they believe certain posters match with one another.
  - Break the children into smaller groups and distribute the smaller sets of cards. Invite them to work together to match the Road to Emmaus scripture cards with the corresponding Parts of the Mass cards. When all the groups have finished, discuss together, inviting the children to give reasons for their choices.

## DEBRIEF AND SUMMARISE

- Just as Jesus was present with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he is present with us in the Mass.
- Jesus is present with us in:
  - The community of people gathered together
  - The priest, who says and does the things Jesus is saying and doing in that moment - in Latin this is called 'persona Christi' which means 'in the person of Christ'.
  - The Word - the scriptures that are proclaimed.
  - The Body and Blood of Christ Jesus - the bread and wine that has been blessed and consecrated.
- Just as the disciples did in the Road to Emmaus we:
  - Gather together
  - Listen to the Word of God proclaimed - we listen to the priest as he explains it.
  - Share in the Body and Blood of Christ
  - Go forth to tell others the Good News of Jesus.



## THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - LUKE 24:13-35

That same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus, which was about eleven kilometers from Jerusalem. As they were talking and thinking about what had happened, Jesus came near and started walking along beside them. But they did not know who he was.

Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?"

The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy. Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus, "Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?"

"What do you mean?" Jesus asked.

They answered:

Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth. By what he did and said he showed that he was a powerful prophet, who pleased God and all the people. Then the chief priests and our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross. We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free! But it has already been three days since all this happened.

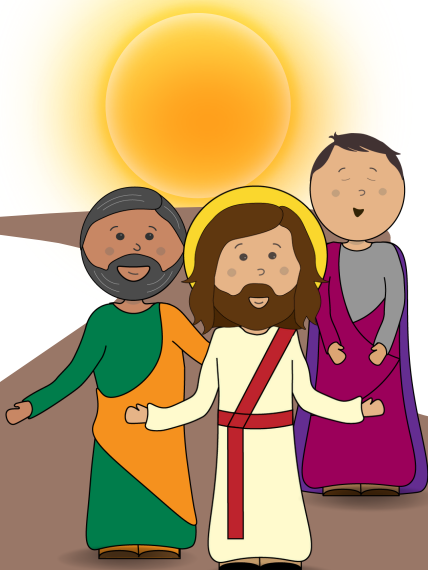
Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the tomb early in the morning, but did not find the body of Jesus. They came back, saying they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus either.

Then Jesus asked the two disciples, "Why can't you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said? Didn't you know that the Messiah would have to suffer before he was given his glory?" Jesus then explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures, beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets.

When the two of them came near the village where they were going, Jesus seemed to be going farther. They begged him, "Stay with us! It's already late, and the sun is going down." So Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

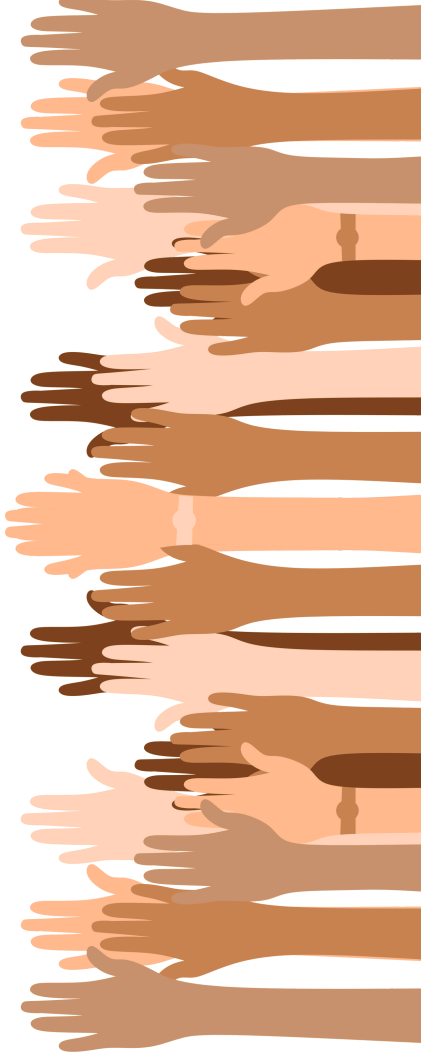
After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared. They said to each other, "When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn't it warm our hearts?" So they got up and returned to Jerusalem.

The two disciples found the eleven apostles and the others gathered together. And they learned from the group that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter. Then the disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.



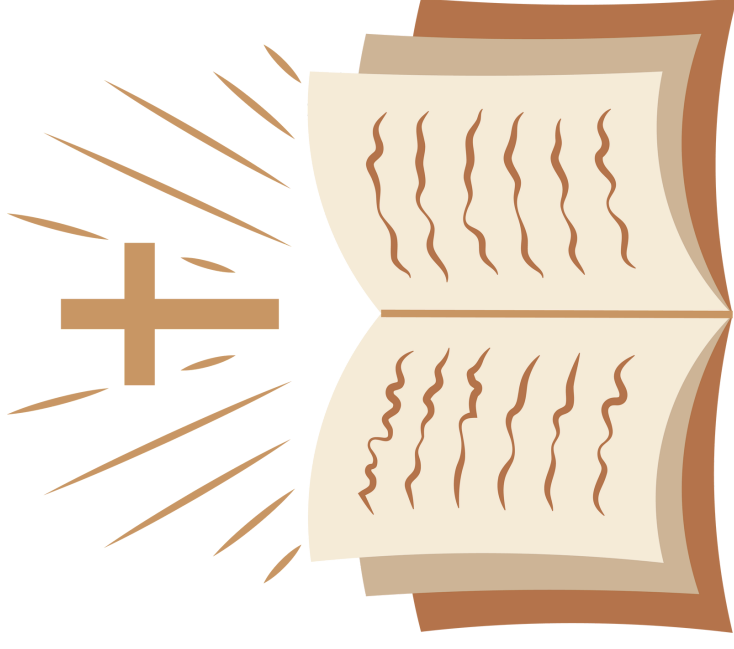
# Gathering and Welcome

We gather together in the presence of Jesus Christ.  
The priest welcomes us all and we begin the  
celebration of the Mass.



# Liturgy of the Word

We listen as the  
scriptures are  
proclaimed by the  
readers and the  
priest. The priest  
helps us to  
understand the  
scriptures more  
deeply through  
the homily.



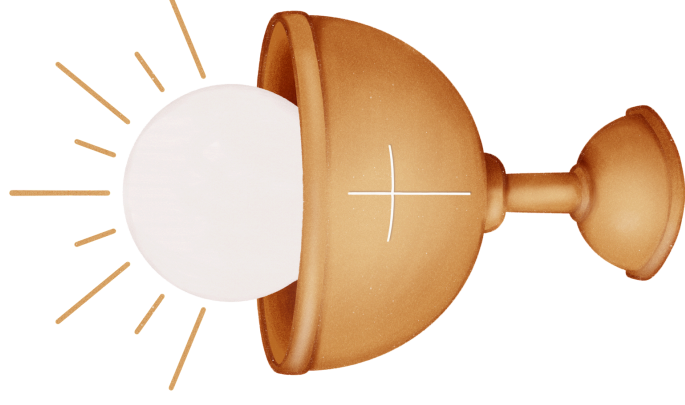
# Blessing and dismissal

We are blessed and sent forth to tell others about the  
Good News of Jesus and to share his love with  
everyone we meet.



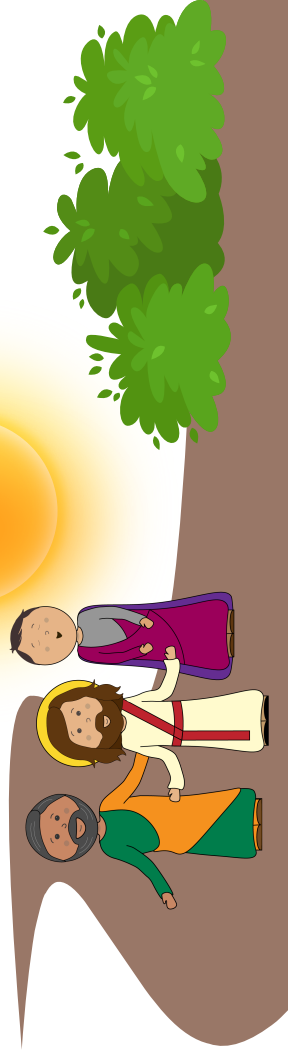
# Liturgy of the Eucharist

We respond through the Liturgy of  
the Eucharist as the priest says the  
words that Jesus says and calls  
upon the Holy Spirit to change the  
bread and the wine into the Body  
and Blood of Jesus Christ. It is  
broken and shared as we go  
forward to receive communion.



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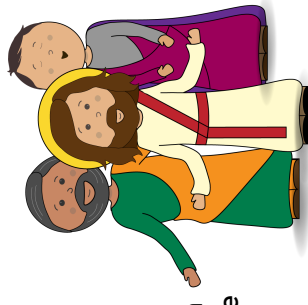
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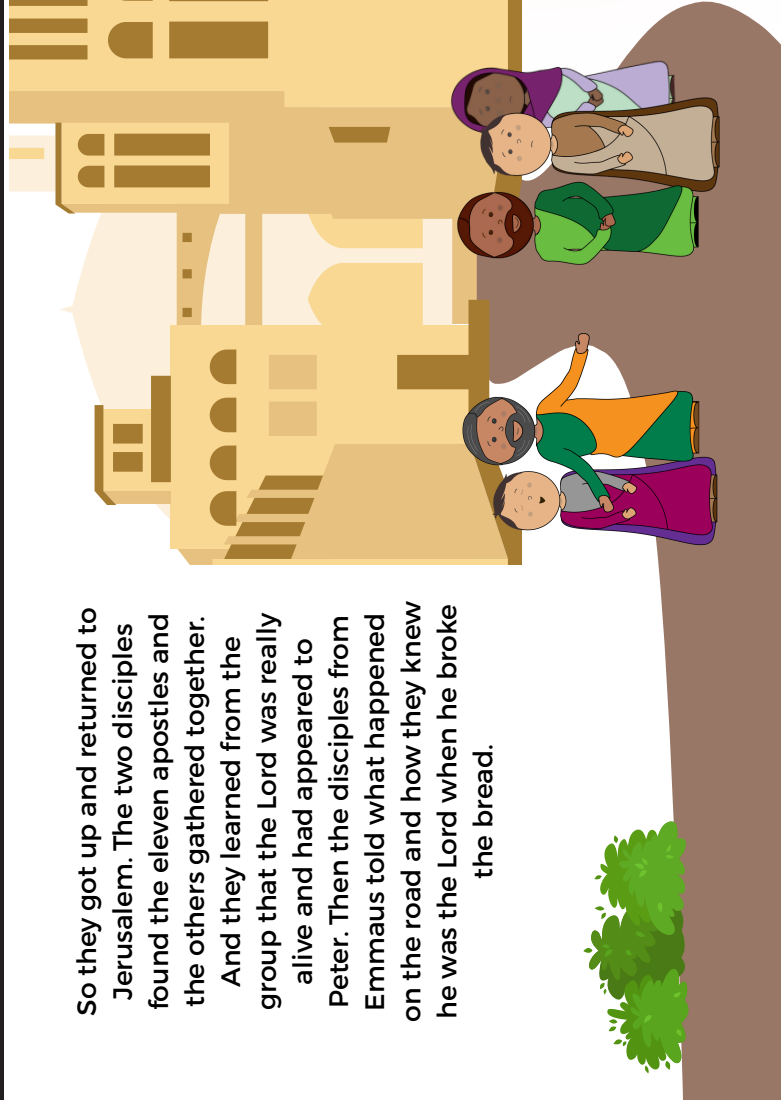
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