



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Jesus is the Way



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## Overview

The Fifth Sunday of Easter invites us to help children encounter three central themes: trust in Jesus, belonging to the Church, and living a life of service. In the Gospel, Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled," offering reassurance to disciples facing uncertainty. For children, this becomes a foundational message of trust: Jesus is with us and guides us. His declaration, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," can be presented as Jesus showing us how to live, love, pray, and walk toward God.

The second reading offers the beautiful image of believers as living stones built into a spiritual house. This is an opportunity to help children understand the Church not simply as a building, but as a community of people gathered in Christ. Each child has dignity, gifts, and a place in God's family. Christ, the cornerstone, holds us together.

In Acts, the calling of the Seven shows that service is part of the Church's life from the beginning. This can help children see that discipleship is active: following Jesus means helping others, noticing needs, and serving with compassion. Even simple acts of kindness become expressions of the Gospel. A helpful synthesis is:

1. Jesus shows us the way — discipleship and trust.
2. We belong to God's family — identity and communion.
3. We are called to help others — mission and service.

These readings move from trust to belonging to mission. They offer a beautiful pattern for children's catechesis rooted in *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi*: what we pray shapes what we believe, and what we believe shapes how we live.

A key takeaway is to help children see that Easter faith is not only about believing Jesus is risen, but about living as joyful disciples who trust him, belong to his Church, and share his love through service.

### Key Messages for Children

1. Jesus shows me the way.
2. Jesus is always with me.
3. I belong to God's family.
4. I can help others.
5. I can shine Jesus' love every day.

### Key Messages for Leaders

- † Move from explanation to encounter: help children meet Jesus.
- † Emphasize identity before activity: you belong, therefore you serve.
- † Keep the Easter focus clear: Resurrection faith is lived.
- † Model *Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi* — prayer, belief, and life belong together.

### Leader's Personal Reflection Questions

- Where do you hear the Good News in these readings?
- What image speaks most to you this week: the Way, living stones, servant ministry, mission? Why?
- What one message do you most want the children to carry home?

### Leader Takeaway

Lord Jesus, help me lead children not only to know about you, but to trust you, belong to your Church, and follow you in love and service.

## Background

**Acts 6:1–7** As the early Church grows, a problem arises when some widows are being neglected in the daily distribution of food. The apostles respond prayerfully and wisely by choosing seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom to serve the community. This reading shows that the Church is called to be both prayerful and practical, rooted in proclamation and compassionate service. It reveals that ministry is shared, the needs of the vulnerable matter, and the Gospel grows when faith is expressed through justice, charity, and communion.

**Psalms 33** is a song of trust in God's faithful love. It celebrates God as creator, protector, and source of hope. The psalm invites believers to place confidence not in their own strength, but in the steadfast love of the Lord. It echoes the Gospel's call not to let our hearts be troubled, but to trust in God's mercy and providence.

**1 Peter 2:4–9** Peter presents the Church as a living spiritual house built of "living stones," with Christ as the cornerstone. Through baptism, Christians share in a holy calling as a chosen people and royal priesthood, called to proclaim God's marvellous deeds. The reading emphasizes identity and mission: we do not simply belong to the Church; we help build it. In Easter light, this passage reminds us that the Risen Christ forms his people into a living community sent to witness.

**John 14:1–12** Jesus comforts his disciples before his Passion, urging them not to be afraid and revealing himself as "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." He promises that in knowing him, they know the Father, for he reveals the very face of God. The Gospel is both consolation and commissioning: trust in Christ leads to communion with the Father, and believers are called to continue the works of Jesus. In Easter faith, this passage proclaims that the Risen Lord guides, strengthens, and sends his disciples on mission.

Jesus is the Way who invites us to trust him, gathers us as living stones into his Church, and sends us to serve in love. The readings call us to see Easter faith as trusting Christ, belonging to his people, and living as missionary disciples through prayer, service, and witness.

## The Liturgy

### Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

**Dear children, today, Jesus calls us to follow His Way. Go with your leaders and learn how Jesus is The Way, the Truth and the Life.**

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

### Welcome

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

**Let's quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Loving Jesus, you are the Way who leads us to God. Help us trust you, love others, and follow you each day.**

**Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

## READINGS

### FIRST READING

Acts 6.1-7

#### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now, during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word."

What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

#### The Word of the Lord

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

**R.** Let your love be upon us, Lord, even as we hope in you.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.

Praise befits the upright.

Praise the Lord with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. **R.**

For the word of the Lord is upright,

and all his work is done in faithfulness.

He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. **R.**

Truly, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,

on those who hope in his steadfast love,

to deliver their soul from death

and to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter.

Beloved: Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by human beings yet chosen and precious in God's sight. Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

### FIRST READING

Acts 6.1-7

Listen to this story about the first followers of Jesus.

After Jesus rose and went back to the Father, more and more people began following him. The community of believers was growing, and they shared what they had and cared for one another. But one day, a problem came up. Some of the people said, "Some people who need help are being forgotten and are going hungry."

The apostles gathered everyone together and said, "It is very important that everyone is cared for. We also need time to pray and teach about Jesus." So they said, "Let us choose some good and wise people who love God and can help serve those in need."

**What do you think makes someone a good helper?** *Pause for responses*

The people chose seven men who were kind, faithful, and full of the Holy Spirit. The apostles prayed for them and blessed them for this special work. Now some followers preached and taught, and others helped care for people who were hungry or lonely. Everyone worked together.

**Do you think everyone in the Church has something important to do?** *Pause*

Because people worked together and helped one another, the community grew stronger, and more people came to know and love Jesus.

This story teaches us that in God's family, everyone matters. Also, helping others is part of following Jesus. Each one of us has gifts to share.

**How can you be a helper this week?** *Pause*

**R.** We trust in your love, O God.

Come, rejoice in the Lord!  
Do what is right,  
and it is good to praise him. **R.**

The Lord always speaks the truth.  
He loves what is right,  
and his love fills the whole world. **R.**

The Lord watches over those who trust in his love.  
He helps them when they are in danger  
And keeps them safe in hard times. **R.**

Listen now to a message about who we are in God's family.

St. Peter tells us to come close to Jesus, because Jesus is the cornerstone—the strong stone that holds a building together.

**Have you ever built with blocks or LEGO? What happens if the bottom piece is not strong?** *Pause for responses*

Jesus is our foundation. We build our lives on him. And St. Peter says something beautiful: you are like living stones. That means each one of you is important in God's Church. Just as many stones build one strong house, all of us together—children, parents, friends, and the whole Church—make up God's family.

**What do you think it means that you are a "living stone"?** *Pause*

It means: You belong. You matter. God has given you gifts.

St. Peter also says we are God's chosen people. God has called us out of darkness into light. That means Jesus helps us live in love rather than selfishness, in kindness rather than meanness, and in hope rather than fear. And we are called to tell others how wonderful God is—not only with words, but by how we live.

**How can you show God's light this week?** *Pause*

**Maybe by helping someone? Sharing? Being kind?** *Pause*

This reading teaches us that Jesus is our strong foundation. We belong in God's family. Each of us has gifts to help build the Church. We are called to shine God's light.

When we follow Jesus and love others, we help build God's house.

Listen to the Good News of Jesus.

One day, Jesus was talking to his friends, the disciples. They were feeling worried and unsure. Jesus said to them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me." He was saying, "Don't be afraid—I am with you."

**Have you ever felt worried or scared? What helps you feel safe?** *Pause for responses*

Jesus told them, "In my Father's house there is room for everyone, and I am going there to prepare a place for you." What wonderful news—there is a place for each one of us in God's family! Then Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

**What does that mean?** *Pause* It means Jesus shows us the way to live:

- † the way of love
- † the way of kindness
- † the way of forgiveness
- † the way of peace

**How can we follow Jesus' way this week?** *Pause*

One of the disciples, Philip, said, "Jesus, show us the Father." And Jesus answered, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." That means when we see Jesus loving people, helping people, forgiving people—we see what God is like.

Jesus also told his friends, "The works I do, you can do too." That means we can continue Jesus' loving work!

**What are some loving works Jesus wants us to do?** *Pause*

This Gospel teaches us that we can trust Jesus when we are afraid. Jesus shows us the way to God. We belong in God's family. We can share Jesus' love by helping others. Follow Jesus. Trust Jesus. Love like Jesus.

Jesus is the Way who leads us to God.

## Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

**What did you hear?** Allow children to respond.

Today, we heard how Jesus shows us the way, gathers us into God's family, and teaches us to help others.

After Jesus rose from the dead, many people began following him. They prayed together, shared what they had, and cared for one another. But one day, some people who needed food and help were being forgotten. The apostles said, "Everyone must be cared for. Let us choose good helpers to serve those in need." So they chose wise and kind people full of God's Spirit to help.

**What makes someone a good helper?** Pause

Because everyone worked together and served one another, the Church grew strong. Following Jesus means helping others.

St. Peter says Jesus is the foundation stone, and we are living stones building God's house together. Each one of you is important in God's family.

**What gifts has God given you to help others?** Pause

Jesus said to his friends, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." When we feel scared, Jesus is with us. He said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." That means Jesus shows us how to live: Love others. Be kind. Forgive. Help people in need. Jesus said there is room for everyone in God's house. And Jesus tells us we can continue his good works.

**How can you show Jesus' love this week?**

Jesus shows us the way. We belong to God's family. We are called to help others. We can trust Jesus every day.

Simple Takeaways: Follow Jesus. Trust Jesus. Help others. Shine God's love.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

## The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

**Jesus is the Way who leads us to the Father and teaches us to love and serve one another. Let us bring our prayers before God. Our response is: R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Assistant:

**For the Church, that we may be like living stones, built together in faith, hope, and love. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Joseph, and all who lead the Church, that they may guide God's people with wisdom and joy. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For people who are poor, lonely, sick, or in need, that they may be cared for and know God's love through others. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For our families, teachers, and catechists, that they may help us grow as disciples of Jesus. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For our parish community, that we may serve others with joyful hearts as the first disciples did. We pray to the Lord. R:**

The Leader says:

**Loving God, you call us to trust your Son, to serve one another, and to walk in the way of love. Hear these prayers we make through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.



## DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

Readings: Lectionary Sundays and Solemnities,  
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John 14:1-12 handout provided by [thewordthisweek.net](http://thewordthisweek.net)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# John 14:1-12

1. What did Jesus say not to let your hearts be?

- A. Happy
- B. Sad
- C. Troubled



5. Who asked Jesus, "Master, show us the Father...?"

- A. Philip
- B. Thomas
- C. John



2. Where did Jesus say there are many dwelling places?

- A. His Father's house
- B. A city park
- C. A disciple's home



6. What does Jesus say that whoever has seen him has also seen?

- A. A bright angel
- B. The Father
- C. A great king



3. Who asked Jesus, "how can we know the way?"

- A. Peter
- B. Thomas
- C. Philip



7. Jesus said to believe that He is in the Father and the \_\_\_\_\_ is in Him.

- A. Father
- B. Holy Spirit
- C. Other disciples



4. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. Light
- B. Power
- C. Life



8. What did Jesus say that whoever believes in Him would do?

- A. Build a church
- B. Write a new book
- C. Greater works than these



# Jesus is the Way to Heaven

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells the disciples that He is the way to the Father in Heaven.

Jesus is the way for us to go to Heaven. But how can a person be a way to get somewhere? Jesus is always with the Father in Heaven, so the closer we are to Jesus the closer we are to Heaven!

How can we be close to Jesus? Here are some ways:

**Pray to Jesus.** Prayer is talking with God. When we want to be friends with someone we talk with them a lot.



**Try to be like Jesus.** Always do the right thing. When you need to decide what to do, think: "What would Jesus do in this situation?" Stay close to Mary, His mother. She will keep you close to Jesus.



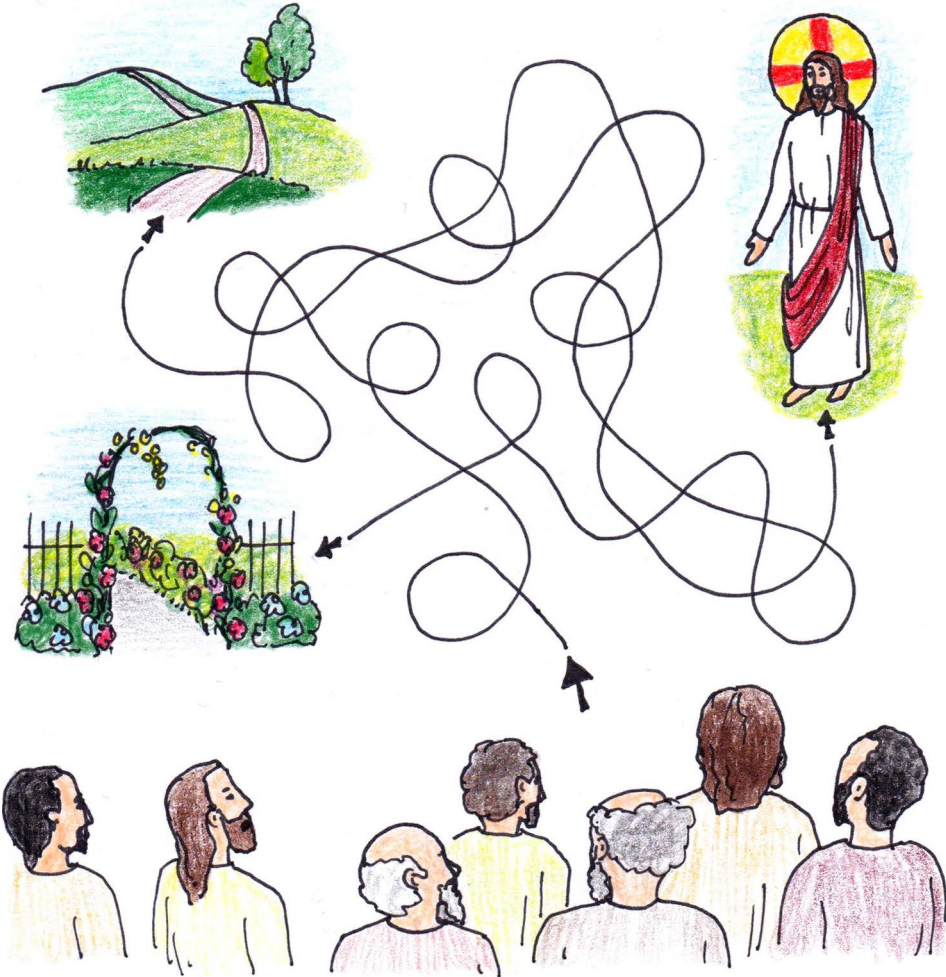
**Receive Jesus in Holy Communion.** The Eucharist is an amazing gift. It is Jesus coming to us so that we can receive Him into our bodies and souls. Communion is the closest we can be to Jesus until we get to Heaven.



Answers to Cross-Word-Across: 3.Father 5.is 9.time 10.because 11.on 13.will 15.and 17.whoever 18.who 20.than 22.speak Down: 1.of 2.Jesus 4.amen 6.still 7.seen 8.believe 11.own 12.know 14.you 16.doing 17.works 19.show 21.me

# The Kids' Bulletin

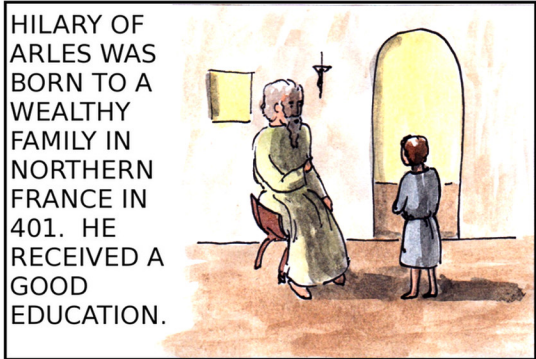
Fifth Sunday of Easter



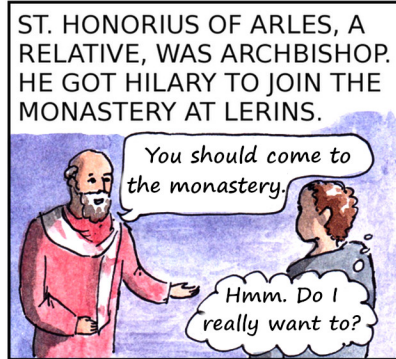
**In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the disciples the way to the Father in Heaven. Do you know which is the way? Follow the squiggly line to find out!**

# Saint Hilary of Arles

May 5

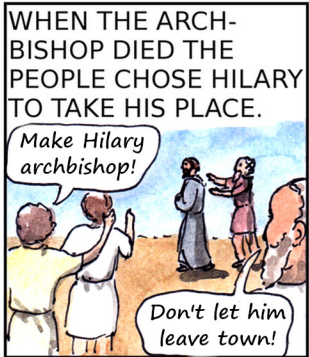


HILARY OF ARLES WAS BORN TO A WEALTHY FAMILY IN NORTHERN FRANCE IN 401. HE RECEIVED A GOOD EDUCATION.



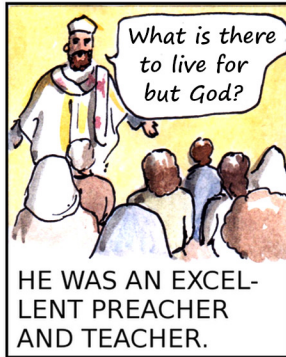
ST. HONORIUS OF ARLES, A RELATIVE, WAS ARCHBISHOP. HE GOT HILARY TO JOIN THE MONASTERY AT LERINS.

You should come to the monastery.  
 Hmm. Do I really want to?



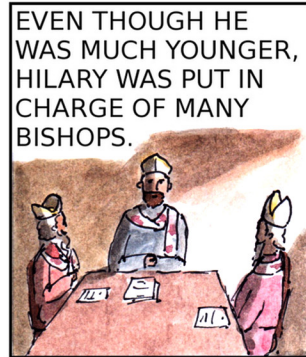
WHEN THE ARCHBISHOP DIED THE PEOPLE CHOSE HILARY TO TAKE HIS PLACE.

Make Hilary archbishop!  
 Don't let him leave town!



What is there to live for but God?

HE WAS AN EXCELLENT PREACHER AND TEACHER.



EVEN THOUGH HE WAS MUCH YOUNGER, HILARY WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF MANY BISHOPS.



HE MADE SOME MISTAKES IN HIS DIRECTION OF THE BISHOPS, SO POPE ST. LEO TOOK AWAY SOME OF HIS POWER.

You should not have done that.



Your excellency, my brother has been taken captive!

I will find a ransom for him.

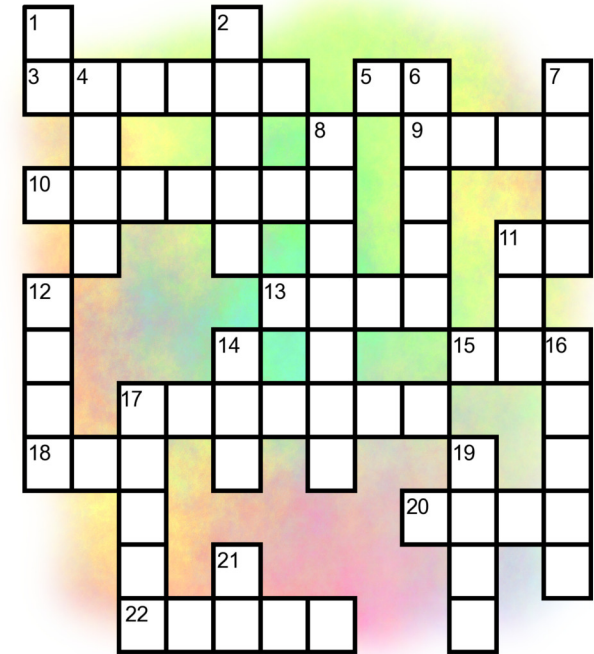
ST. HILARY ACCEPTED THE POPE'S DECISIONS AND KEPT WORKING TO HELP HIS PEOPLE. HE DIED WHEN HE WAS ONLY 48 YEARS OLD.

SAINT HILARY OF ARLES IS AN EXAMPLE TO US THAT GOD SOMETIMES WANTS YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE IMPORTANT JOBS. SAINT HILARY WAS YOUNGER THAN THE BISHOPS HE WAS IN CHARGE OF BUT HE WAS HUMBLE ENOUGH TO RULE THEM WELL. ALSO, WHEN HE MADE MISTAKES HE ACCEPTED THE CONSEQUENCES.

## "Show us the Father" Cross-Word

Use the words from the list to fill in the blanks and complete the puzzle.

IS WHOEVER  
 OF BECAUSE  
 ON BELIEVE  
 ME FATHER  
 YOU WORKS  
 AND DOING  
 WHO SPEAK  
 WILL AMEN  
 OWN JESUS  
 TIME THAN  
 SHOW STILL  
 KNOW SEEN



\_\_\_\_\_ (2d) said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a \_\_\_\_\_ (9a) and you \_\_\_\_\_ (6d) do not \_\_\_\_\_ (12d) me, Philip? \_\_\_\_\_ (17a) has seen me has \_\_\_\_\_ (7d) the Father. How can you say, ' \_\_\_\_\_ (19d) us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in \_\_\_\_\_ (21d) The words that I \_\_\_\_\_ (22a) to you I do not speak \_\_\_\_\_ (11a) my \_\_\_\_\_ (11d). The Father \_\_\_\_\_ (18a) dwells in me is \_\_\_\_\_ (16d) his works. \_\_\_\_\_ (8d) me that I am in the \_\_\_\_\_ (3a) and the Father \_\_\_\_\_ (5a) in me, or else, believe \_\_\_\_\_ (10a) \_\_\_\_\_ (1d) the works themselves. \_\_\_\_\_ (4d) amen, I say to \_\_\_\_\_ (14d), whoever believes in me \_\_\_\_\_ (13a) do the \_\_\_\_\_ (17d) that I do, \_\_\_\_\_ (15a) will do greater ones \_\_\_\_\_ (20a) these, because I am going to the Father."