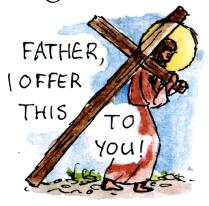
## If you want to be my disciple...



What would you think if your best friend told you that you would have to die if you wanted to stay friends? In today's Gospel reading Jesus told the Apostles that if they wanted to be like Him they would have to take up their crosses and follow Him.

Jesus was teaching them that this world is only a preparation for Heaven. If we make sacrifices for love of God then we will be ready for Heaven. Jesus opened the gates of Heaven to us by dying out of love



for God the Father and for us. We get little crosses every day when things make us unhappy. If we offer them to God with love, they are like dying a little bit, and they prepare us for Heaven.



Sometimes we think that we need nice things or to be with fun people if we want to be happy. It's easy to forget that we will never be completely happy here. Next time you feel unhappy, remember that it's a cross that can help you get to Heaven!





What did Jesus say that the people would have to do to be His disciples? Find your way through the maze and then use the letters from that path to fill in the blanks.

## World Day of Prayer FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

**1 SEPTEMBER** 

## A Clondalkin prayer for the Earth

God of the Universe, We thank You for Your many great gifts we see each around us day. For the beauty of Corkagh and Collinstown parks and the lazy, meandering Carmac river. We thank you for the wildlife, creatures, trees and plants that they support and for the rest they provide. We thank you for clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals and plants. Thank you for the beautiful diversity that is so evident in our town, village and estates and for the blessing of each other.

Let us never take these precious gifts for granted.

May we always be mindful of what we use. Forgive us for times we have wasted what You have given us, and we pray for those who suffer because of our waste, greed or indifference.

Let apathy never allow us to forget our role as stewards and caretakers of nature and may our touch be always marked with gentleness, care and with love, respecting all living things. We ask this in Your name, today & always. Amen

## "Take up Your Cross" Match-up

Jesus began to tell the disciples that He would have to suffer and be killed. How did the disciples react? What did Jesus say then? Connect the phrases on the left with the ones that follow on the right.

1. Peter said, "God forbid, Lord! \*

> 2. Jesus saíd, "Get behínd me, † Satan!

3. You are not thinking as God does t

4. Whoever wishes to come after me t

- 5. Whoever wishes to save his life **†**
- 6. and whoever loses this life for my sake t
  - 7. For what profit would there be

A. will find it.

must deny himself, B. take up his cross and follow me."

You are an <sup>-.</sup> obstacle to me.

No such thing shall ever happen to You!"

E. but as human beings do."

- for one to gain the F. whole world and forfeit his life?
- G. will lose it