

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 24th January 2021

Read John 2.1-11



You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Every year the Christian churches in Britain identify one week as a time of special prayers for Christian Unity. It is usually 18th-25th January – so this Sunday is part of that week and we are going to think about what Christian Unity means.

There are many different types of Christian churches. Can you think of the names of some of them? Here are a few to get you started – Church of England, Roman Catholics, Methodists, Baptists You could look for other groups of Christians on the internet.

What symbol do all these churches use to show that they are Christians?

Each of these groups of Christians has a different way of worshipping God. Have you been to services in other churches?

In these churches the buildings may look different, the vicar or minister would be referred to by different names, the hymns or music may vary, some services would have holy communion and others would be prayers and hymns. But, in spite of these differences, all these churches have one important thing in common – they all worship one God and they all believe in Jesus as the son of God.

Today's reading from St John's gospel is the well-known story of the Marriage Feast at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine. This story from the Bible is used in the season of Epiphany because it is an occasion when Jesus performed a miracle and is revealed as the Son of God. Jesus' disciples saw this miracle and believed in him. Christians throughout the world have experienced the same sort of revelation or understanding that Jesus is God. Christians have been transformed or changed by the love of God in the same way that Jesus changed the water into wine.

In the Bible Christians are often referred to as being one body. Our bodies have lots of different parts – legs, arms, eyes, ears, brain etc – but all these parts are important and work together to create each individual.

The Christian church throughout the world is one body, one large group of Christians. We may worship in different ways but what brings us together as a united group is that we all believe in one God and follow the teachings of Jesus.

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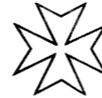


Activities

- Get together three different coloured pieces of wool or string, and then plait or twist them into a friendship bracelet. This is like the different types of churches all linked together as Christians.
- The cross is the symbol of Christianity. There are different types of crosses. Make a cross from two sticks or twigs that you have tied together. Then decorate it in some way and hold it as you say your prayers today, thinking of Christians all round the world.



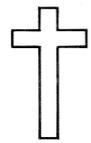
GREEK



MALTESE



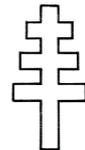
ST. ANDREWS



LATIN



PATRIARCHAL



PAPAL

Prayer

Creator God, who cares for us and watches over us each day, **unite us in love.**

Jesus, Son of God, who died on the cross to save us, **unite us in peace.**

Spirit of God, who helps us to walk in the way of Jesus, **unite us in purpose.**

Loving Lord, help us to live and work together as one body, **making known your care to all.**

Amen.