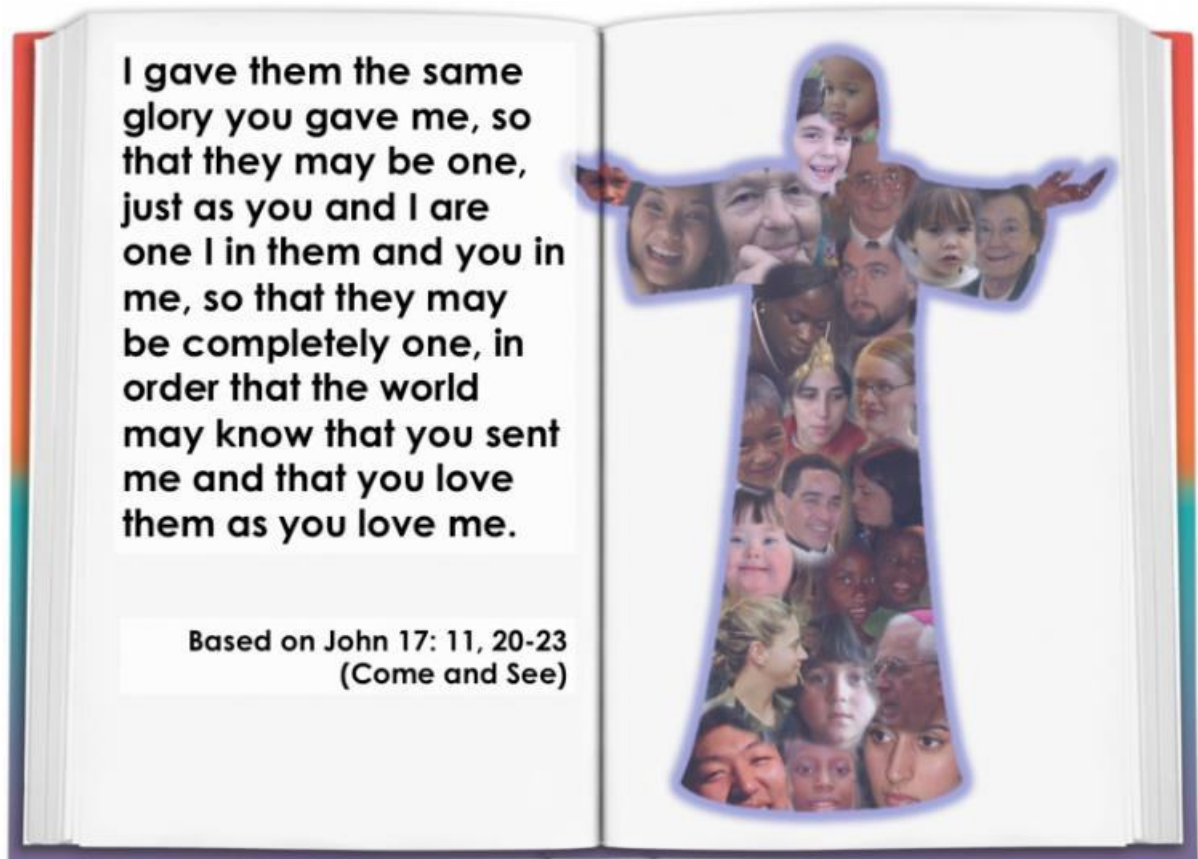


Jesus asks us to pray for unity and to grow in communion with him and with each other.

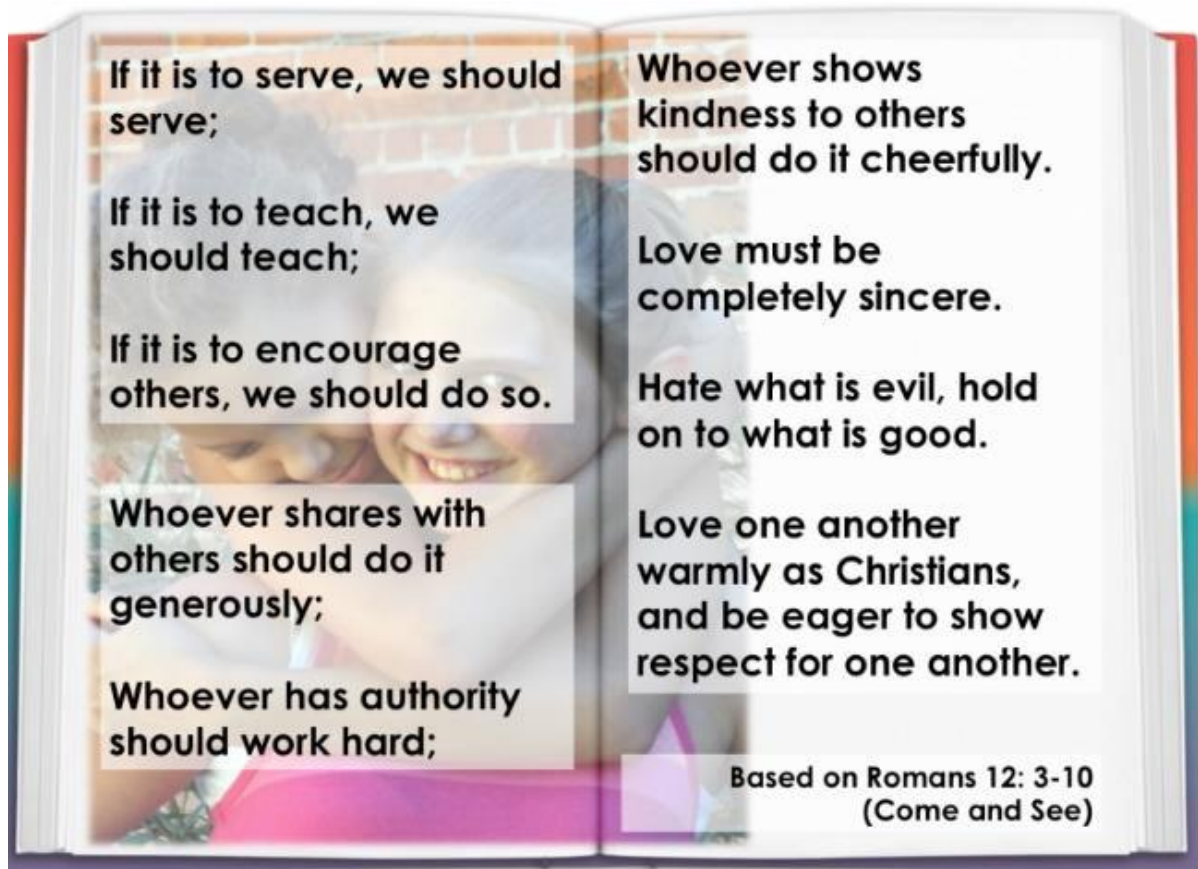
Jesus often spoke to his disciples about the importance of unity among them. He gave them the model of the unity between himself and God the Father.

In the text (below) from John's Gospel, part of his prayer for his disciples just before his arrest, he makes it clear how they would be more effective witnesses of his love if there was unity among them.



- Why do you think Jesus prayed this prayer at this time?
- How do you think the disciples felt when they heard this?
- How do you think it might have affected their beliefs and their behaviour to one another?
- What can you learn from this Gospel reading?
- What does the word 'communion mean? (relationship, empathy, unity, union, one with etc.)
- What do you think being 'in communion with Jesus' means?

Paul was one of the friends of Jesus who went from city to city telling people about the Good News of Jesus. He often wrote to the people he had left to remind them of the message of Jesus, to say 'well done' or to give them advice. In this letter to the Christians in Rome, Paul explains how although we are all different, we may all be one with Jesus Christ through the gifts we have been given.



- Which of the different gifts that Paul mentions do you think you have?
- Which one would you most like to have and why?
- What is Paul telling the Christians in Rome about communion (friendship)?
- How do you think the use of these gifts can bring union with Christ?

'Communion' means 'being at one with'. The celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of being at one with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as well as being at one with one another. It is about God making the world holy and of people offering worship to God. In Year 5, the children learnt how the Eucharist is a memorial of Jesus' sacrifice. Jesus' sacrifice unites the whole Church, those in Heaven and those on earth and makes it one Church. That is why, in the Eucharistic Prayer, reference is made to Mary and all the saints.

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest takes the chalice (cup) and the paten (plate) with the host and lifting them up, he sings or says: *Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honour is yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever.* Everybody responds: *Amen.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR CHILDREN 3

Priest: Jesus now lives with you in glory, but he is also here on earth, among us. We thank you and say:

All: Glory to God in the highest.

Priest: One day he will come in glory and in his kingdom there will be no more suffering, no more tears, no more sadness. We thank you and say:

All: Glory to God in the highest.

Priest: Father in heaven, you have called us to receive the body and blood of Christ at this table and to be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Through this sacred meal give us strength to please you more and more.

Lord our God, remember, our pope, our bishop, and all other bishops.

Help all who follow Jesus to work for peace and to bring happiness to others.

Bring us all at last together with Mary, the Mother of God, and all the saints, to live with you and to be one with Christ in heaven.

Priest: Through him and with him, and in him, O God almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: Amen!

- Which are your favourite words or phrases and why?
- Was there a word or phrase which made you think more deeply? Why?
- How do you think being in communion with Jesus Christ and his Church might make a difference to your life?