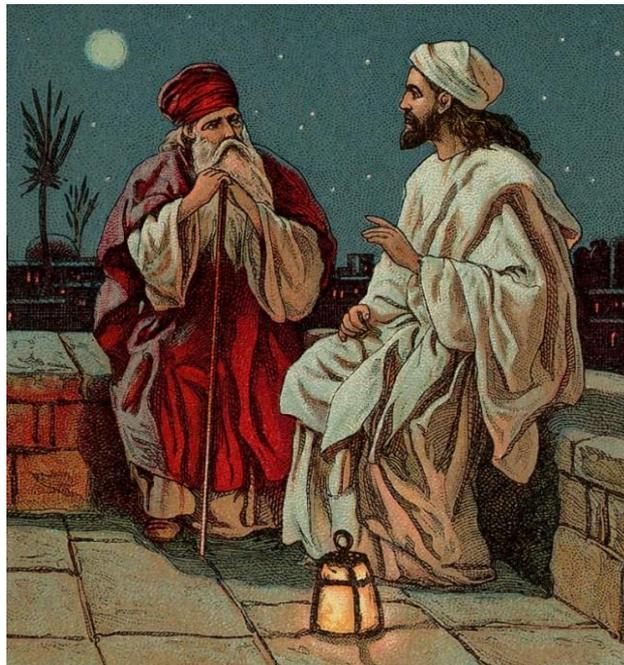


MyWorship

Sunday 1st March – 2nd Sunday of Lent
(and St. David's Day!)

Coming to talk to Jesus

Gospel of John
Chapter 3. Verse 1-17



Our reading from the Gospel this week...

Jesus and Nicodemus

³ There was a man named Nicodemus who was one of the Pharisees. He was an important Jewish leader. ² One night Nicodemus came to Jesus. He said, "Teacher, we know that you are a teacher sent from God. No one can do the miracles you do, unless God is with him."

³ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. Unless you are born again, you cannot be in God's kingdom."

⁴ Nicodemus said, "But if a man is already old, how can he be born again? He cannot enter his mother's body again. So how can he be born a second time?"

⁵ But Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. Unless you are born from water and the Spirit, you cannot enter God's kingdom. ⁶ A person's body is born from his human parents. But a person's spiritual life is born from the Spirit. ⁷ Don't be surprised when I tell you, 'You must all be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wants to go. You hear the wind blow. But you don't know where the wind comes from or where it is going. It is the same with every person who is born from the Spirit."

⁹ Nicodemus asked, "How can all this be possible?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "You are an important teacher in Israel. But you still don't understand these things? ¹¹ I tell you the truth. We talk about what we know. We tell about what we have seen. But you don't accept what we tell you. ¹² I have told you about things here on earth, but you do not believe me. So surely you will not believe me if I tell you

about the things of heaven!¹³ The only one who has ever gone up to heaven is the One who came down from heaven—the Son of Man.

¹⁴ "Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. It is the same with the Son of Man. The Son of Man must be lifted up too. ¹⁵ Then everyone who believes in him can have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him.

Something to think about...

Our Bible story today tells us about one of the teachers in Jerusalem, who came to see Jesus in the middle of the night. Why do you suppose he went out in the middle of the night, instead of finding Jesus in the town in the middle of the day?

- Perhaps he had something on his mind and couldn't sleep?
- Perhaps he was too busy teaching and leading the Jewish people in the daytime?
- Perhaps he didn't want to go when other people were there?
- Perhaps he didn't want anyone to know that he was going to talk to Jesus?

I think it could have been a mixture of all of those things! And all of that is OK.

There are times when I have something on my mind and can't sleep, and often that's when I'll pray.

There are days when I am really busy, and so I only really get the time to sit down and talk to Jesus when all the day-to-day stuff is done.

There are times when I really want it to be just Jesus and me.

These days, I don't worry too much about people knowing that I talk to Jesus all the time because I think they probably expect a priest to do just that (!) - but I can remember feeling a bit unsure about it at the beginning. And that's what I think Nicodemus was feeling too. We have to remember that a lot of the people around him didn't think that Jesus was who his followers said that he was, and just thought he was a bit of a troublemaker!

So Nicodemus goes to speak to Jesus in the middle of the night, because he's got questions for him, and he wants to hear him speak. That's OK too!

Some of what Jesus has to say Nicodemus finds hard to understand. God is a mystery, even to people who are very clever! But we know that Nicodemus did listen to Jesus, and (probably after thinking very hard about what he had said to him) that he believed - because when Jesus went to the cross on Calvary, Nicodemus was one of the people who took his body down from the cross and prepared it for burial.

I wonder what it was that persuaded him that Jesus was the real thing? I think it was probably the last bit of our story, which is a really famous bit from the Bible:

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.

That is *such* good news. It's the Good News that Jesus came to bring to everyone. And that includes you too...so if you have something you want to ask him, even in the middle of the night, when no-one else is there, or without anyone else knowing about it...go ahead. He'll be waiting to talk to you, I promise.

Rev. Teena

Things you could do...

Make a prayer list - you may want to try the 'hand prayer' way of praying

<https://ministry-to-children.com/five-finger-prayer/>

Go outside in the dark on a clear night and look at the stars, the moon, the planets that God created. If you ask your parents they may be able to download the 'Stellarium' app for you, and then you will be able to find out what you are looking at. The night sky is simply amazing! Our Creator God is so good!

Build a prayer cairn in your garden or yard - cairns are a



traditional way of gathering prayers together, and were often built on high places that were thought to be especially close to God. Each stone represents a prayer. You can find stones on the beach, as you walk

around the town, and in your own garden. Each stone will be a prayer for someone or something that you care about. You don't have to balance the stones carefully like this one here - a pile of stones that looks like a pile of stones will do! What is important is that you bring a prayer with a stone, and add it to your pile. Perhaps others will add one too - that's often how cairns on pilgrim paths began to grow.

Night-time prayer wordsearch

C	U	L	D	C	W	O	N	D	E	R	D	W	A	R
A	S	D	T	A	S	R	A	T	S	H	E	L	Q	P
M	O	S	O	W	S	B	D	E	D	H	E	L	U	M
S	H	O	O	T	I	N	G	S	T	A	R	J	I	A
A	A	M	I	C	A	N	S	U	B	K	R	A	E	L
I	C	I	C	U	J	E	K	G	M	E	O	H	T	P
G	O	L	D	C	N	T	E	L	A	L	Q	O	E	P
A	L	K	E	H	H	I	H	E	I	E	U	K	L	R
L	B	Y	F	L	O	V	E	G	A	N	T	E	T	A
A	A	W	O	R	R	G	R	E	I	S	G	P	Y	Y
X	E	A	V	N	O	O	M	M	R	N	T	A	C	E
I	W	Y	D	T	S	N	E	V	A	S	H	E	L	R
E	E	E	E	T	H	G	I	L	I	S	E	K	U	O
S	R	R	A	F	S	M	O	C	A	L	U	B	E	N
C	L	I	S	S	E	N	K	R	A	D	G	E	Y	E

STARS

GALAXIES

NEBULA

DARKNESS

PRAYER

LOOK

HEAVENS

MOON

NIGHT

QUIET

LIGHT

UNIVERSE

PLANETS

MILKY WAY

SHOOTING STAR

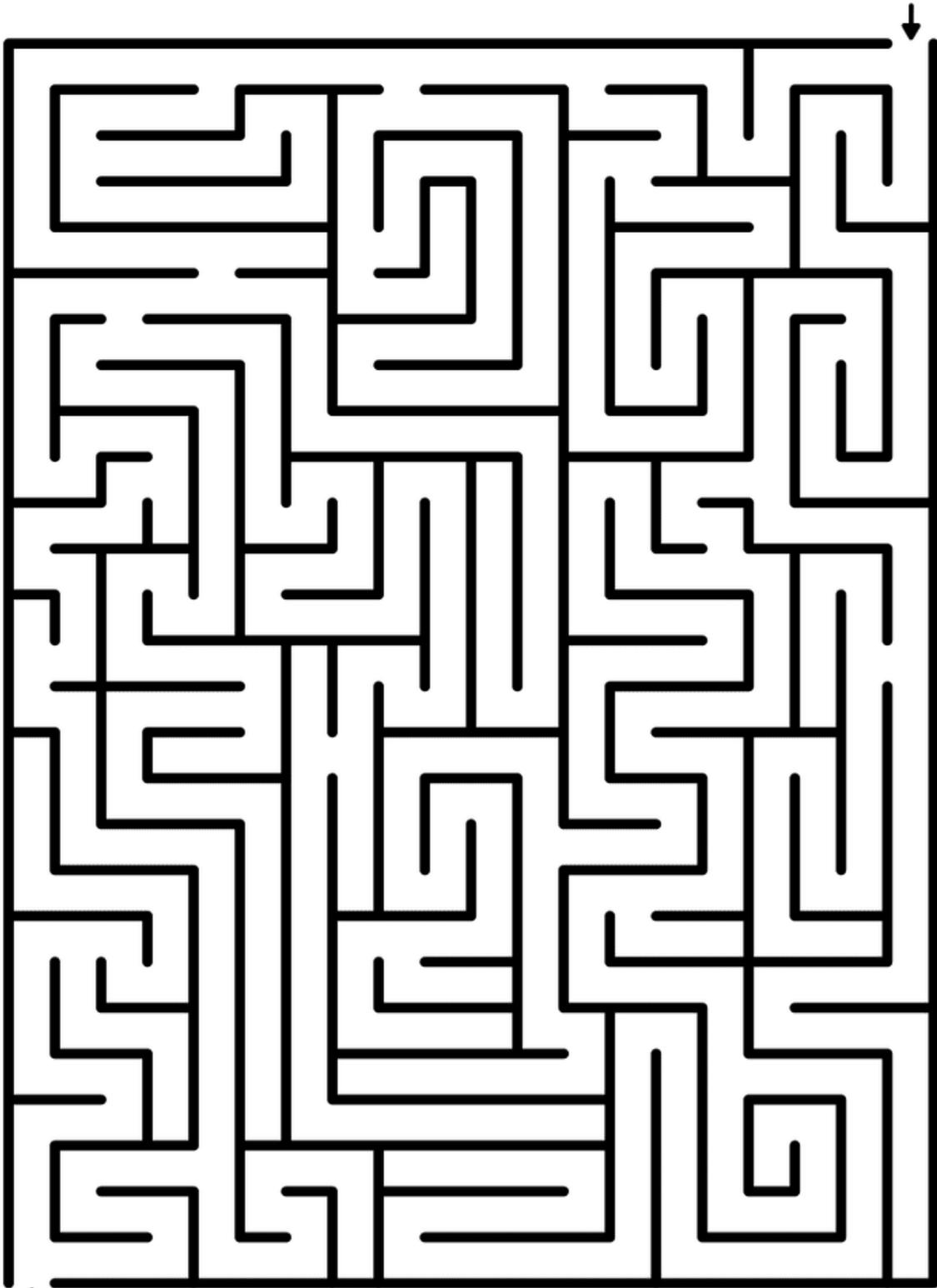
TWINKLING

WONDER

LOVE

Maze puzzle

Can you help Nicodemus find his way through the dark city streets to go and speak to Jesus?



Prayer for this week...

The church at the moment is keeping the season of Lent, a time when we try extra hard to spend time with and get closer to God. We do this a lot by prayer. There are lots of ways to pray - give some of these a try and find what works for you:

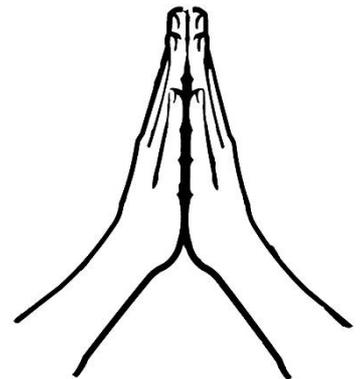
- You may like to pray whilst you go for a walk
- You may like to find a quiet space as your prayer space, and always go to that place to pray
- You may like to have something to keep your hands busy, something that you can do without thinking too much about it, so that you can concentrate on what you are saying to Jesus - and what he has to say to you too!
- You may like to pray with someone else, praying together is something else!

Why not use this prayer during Lent?

Heavenly God

we pray that you will be close to us this Lent, so that we might come, without being afraid, to speak to you and to listen to what have to say, and to learn even more of your love for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Colouring pages...





Little Opals

St David - Feast Day 1st March

Introduction

Saint David is the patron saint of Wales. In Welsh, his name is Dewi. He is one of the most celebrated saints in Britain.

Life

David was born about 520 near St. Bride's Bay, Pembrokeshire, Wales. There is very little known about his life. Most of what is believed about his life comes from a biography written in about 1090 by Rhygyfarch, a Welsh scholar. According to Rhygyfarch, David was the son of a leader named Sant and Non, a woman who later was named a saint.

David became a Christian priest. He then lived on an island for many years to study the Bible.

Once he left the island, David founded a monastery, or religious house, at Mynyw (Menevia) in southwestern Wales. Life at David's monastery was very strict. The monks who lived there had to work very hard. They were rarely allowed to speak. They ate only bread with vegetables and salt. They drank only water.

David founded many churches throughout southern Wales. He later moved the center of the church government from Caerleon to Mynyw. David died in about 600 in Mynyw.

Cathedral

Saint David's Cathedral is the largest cathedral in Wales. It was founded at the site of David's monastery after his death. In the 1100s the pope declared the site to be a place of pilgrimage, or religious journey. A shrine for pilgrims was built. The main portion of the cathedral was built beginning in the late 1100s. Many additions were made to the cathedral over the next 350 years.

The shrine was destroyed in the 1500s, during the Reformation. By that time, Wales had been united with England and was ruled by King Henry VIII. When Henry broke from the Roman Catholic Church, he took control of monasteries and attacked other church buildings. Parts of the cathedral were also damaged during the English Civil Wars. The damaged areas of the cathedral were later rebuilt. The shrine was restored in 2012.

The cathedral is located in Saint David's city, the smallest city in Great Britain. It lies within Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, near the tip of Saint David's Head peninsula (the westernmost point in Wales).

Saint David's Day

Saint David's Day is celebrated every year on 1 March, the traditional death date and feast day of Saint David. The holiday is celebrated all over Wales, with many towns hosting parades and concerts.



In Cardiff, the capital of Wales, there is a concert of traditional Welsh music held in Saint David's Hall. People often pin the two national symbols of Wales, the daffodil and the leek, to their clothes on Saint David's Day.

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus!

(Happy St David's Day!)