

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
Give to God what belongs to God

### Gather Together...

Take time together as a family, find a quiet space, perhaps play some music, light a candle and sit comfortably.



Make the Sign of the Cross

### Listen Together...

Listen to this week's scripture, from the Gospel according to Matthew...

The Pharisees wanted to trick Jesus into saying something which would get him into trouble.

So, they went to him and they said, 'We know that you are honest and are not afraid to speak the truth. Tell us then, should we give our money to the Romans or to God?'

Jesus answered, 'Why do you want to trick me? Show me your money.'

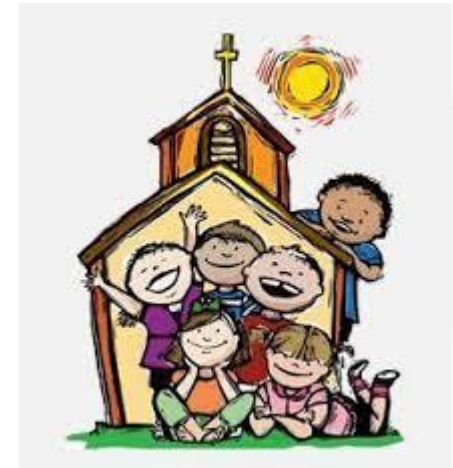
They gave him a Roman coin and he asked them, 'Who is the person on this coin?'

'Caesar,' they answered.

Then Jesus said, 'Give back to Caesar what belongs to him and give to God what is God's.'

### Respond Together...

- At the time when Jesus was born, the Romans had ruled over the land of Palestine for about 60 years. The Romans needed many soldiers to keep order because the



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Jewish people were very unhappy under Roman rule. They were upset by the very high taxes which they had to pay to the Romans.

- How did the Pharisees try to trick Jesus? They were jealous of Jesus because he was so popular with the people and he often criticised the Pharisees. They wanted to get Jesus into trouble with the Romans. They were expecting Jesus to answer their question by saying people should give their money to God, not to the Romans. If you didn't pay the Romans what they felt they were owed you would be arrested and punished.
- What did Jesus ask them to do? He asked them to show him a coin, called a denarius. Just like we have the Queen on our coins, there was a picture of the Emperor (Caesar) on Roman coins.
- Did Jesus tell the people to stop giving their money to the Romans? Jesus answered the question wisely and with care. He simply told the Pharisees to give to Caesar what belonged to Caesar and to give to God what belonged to God.
- Jesus didn't want people to give money to God. What do you think Jesus wants us to give to God? Jesus wants us to return the love that God has given us. We can show God we love him by giving him the gift of ourselves.

Pray Together... God in heaven, I give you all that I am, all that I do and all that I say. Fill me with your spirit and I know that with you by my side I won't go wrong. Amen.

