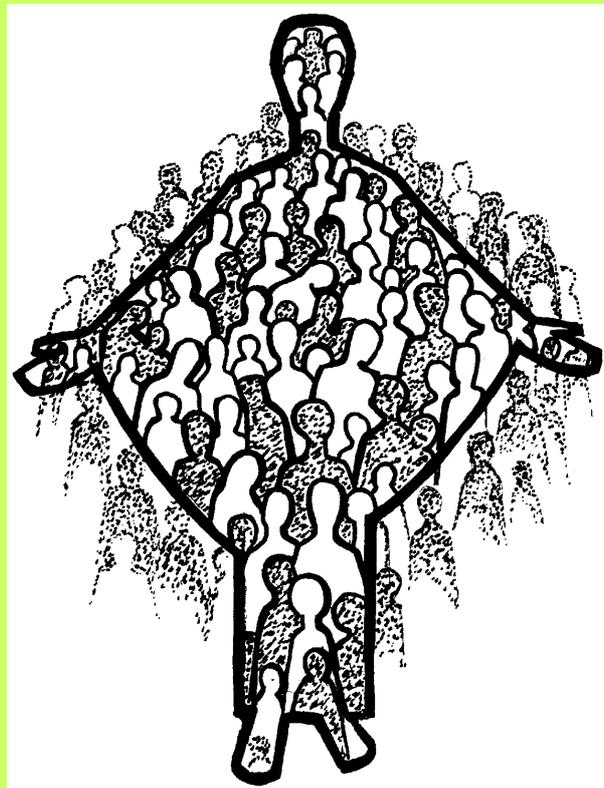


# The Rite of Election



Arundel Cathedral

# Word search

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| c | a | t | h | d | e | l | l | a | c | g | b | t | r |
| a | o | z | t | s | a | e | a | u | h | o | i | o | v |
| t | o | n | w | n | s | o | r | q | o | d | h | s | o |
| e | l | e | f | x | t | r | d | k | s | p | n | p | s |
| c | r | s | a | i | e | a | e | u | c | a | e | o | t |
| h | w | o | i | n | r | o | h | l | m | r | l | n | s |
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| e | t | a | d | i | d | n | a | c | k | t | a | x | e |

Cathedral

Bishop

Mitre

Book

Sign

Catechumen

Candidate

Sponsor

Godparent

Baptism

Confirmation

Eucharist

Lent

Easter

Faith

Chosen

Name

Elect

Called

# Welcome to Arundel Cathedral



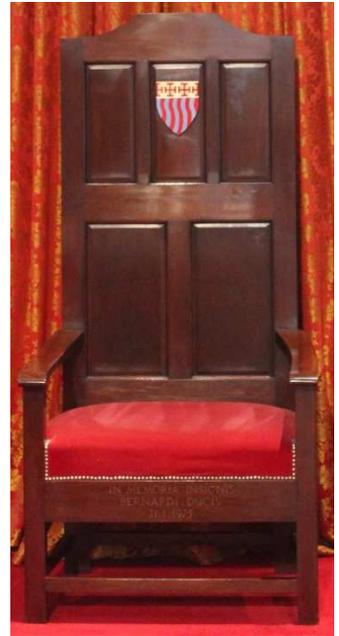
This is the main church of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. It's one of the biggest churches in the diocese because it often has to fit in lots of people for important occasions like today.

This is the church where Bishop Richard has his **bishop's chair**. It is a symbol that he is a teacher.

This chair has a special name, '**cathedra**' – a Latin word which means '**chair**' or 'seat' – and it's from this word that we get the name '**cathedral**'. Look out for the chair. You'll find it near the altar.



If you have time before or after the liturgy, have a look around. **What can you see?**



# Baptism



In the Rite of Election we are praying especially for people who are preparing to be baptised at Easter.

Can you find the **baptismal font** in the cathedral?

Next to it you will see the **paschal candle** which was blessed at the Easter Vigil last year and is a sign that **Jesus is the light of the world.**

Can you see the date on it?

A new candle will be blessed at this year's **Easter Vigil.**

It is also decorated with five pieces of incense, symbolising the **five wounds of Jesus on the Cross**, and the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, **A (alpha) and Ω (omega).**

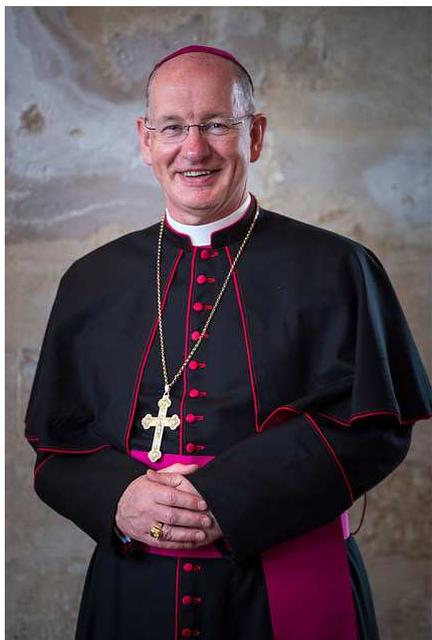
ΑΩ

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the first and the last,  
the beginning and the end.”

(Revelation 22:13)

When you get home, you might like to light the candle which your godparents held when you were baptised. Talk to them and your family about your baptism day.

## Bishop Richard



A **bishop** is a successor of the apostles and the leader of the local Church called a **diocese**.

He is a member of the college of bishops, under the leadership of the Pope, and he has a share in the responsibility for the universal Church.

Bishop Richard Moth is the bishop of our Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

What can you see him wearing and holding?

He wears a **mitre** on his head when he's walking in procession, and sometimes when he's sitting in his chair.

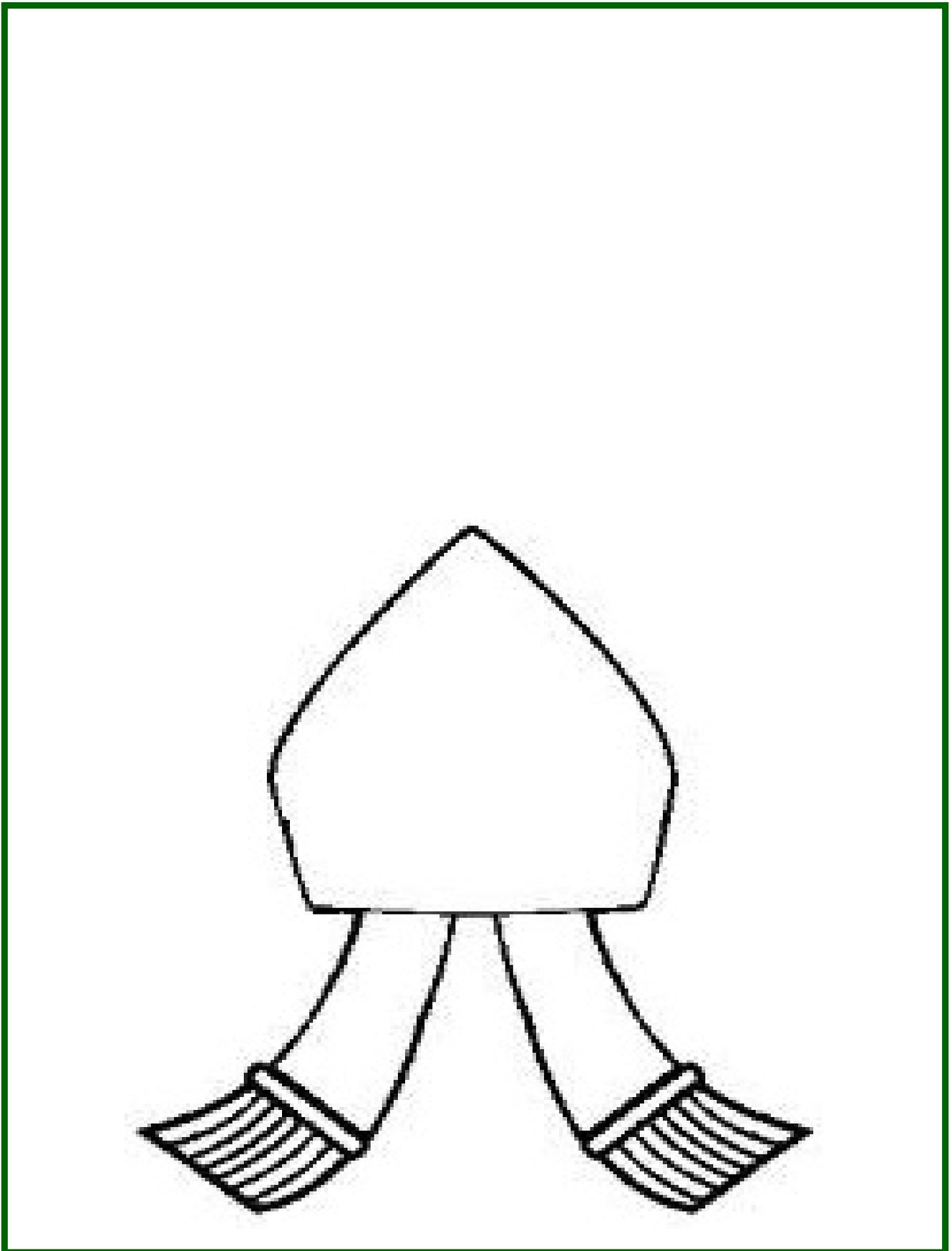
He holds a **crozier** which is shaped like a shepherd's crook. Why do you think this might be? What does it tell you about the bishop's role?



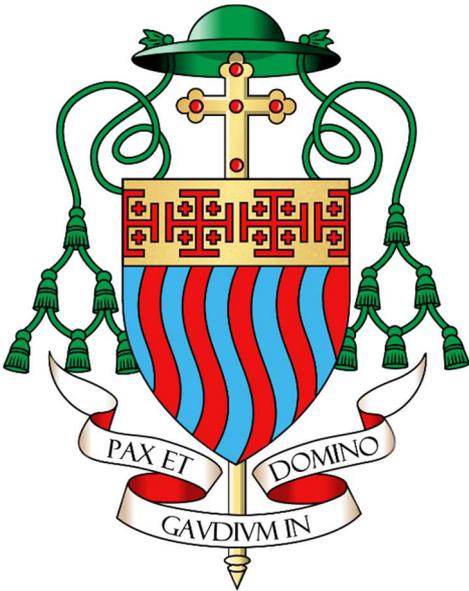
You can read more about Bishop Richard on the diocesan website: <http://www.abdiocese.org.uk/Bishop/>

If you get a chance, say hello to him today. He's very friendly and he'd love to meet you!

You might like to draw a picture of Bishop Richard's mitre here, or colour the one below.



# Bishop Richard's Coat of Arms



Can you see Bishop Richard's coat of arms **on his chair**, or anywhere else in or around the cathedral?

The Latin words at the bottom are his motto:

**Pax et Gaudium in Domino**

It means:

**“P \_ \_ ce and j \_ \_ in \_ \_ \_ L \_ \_ \_”**

Can you fill in the gaps to complete the words?  
(You can find the answer at the bottom of the page.)

You might like to colour in this copy.

What do you think your motto might be if you were a bishop?



Peace and joy in the Lord.

# The Rite of Election

The **Rite of Election** takes place at cathedrals all over the world on or around the first Sunday of **Lent**.

At it, adults and some children will be asked if they wish to join fully with the Church's life through the **sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist**.

Sometimes, this rite is called the **enrolment of names** because they are invited to sign their names in the **Book of the Elect** which will be presented to the bishop.

People come to the cathedral in their diocese for the Rite of Election each year. **Last year, almost 3,000 people in England and Wales asked to become Catholics.**



## Chosen and called by God

Today's liturgy is called the **Rite of Election**, but this isn't about us voting for people as we would in a General Election or perhaps choosing someone to represent us on a school council. In this case it's **God who does the choosing**.

In the Bible, we hear many stories of God choosing a person or even a group of people.

The **Israelites** were God's 'chosen people'. **David**, the shepherd, was chosen by God to be king of God's people. The angel Gabriel brought **Mary** the news that she had found favour with God and had been chosen to be the mother of God's Son. And **Jesus** is called the Messiah, the 'chosen one' of God.

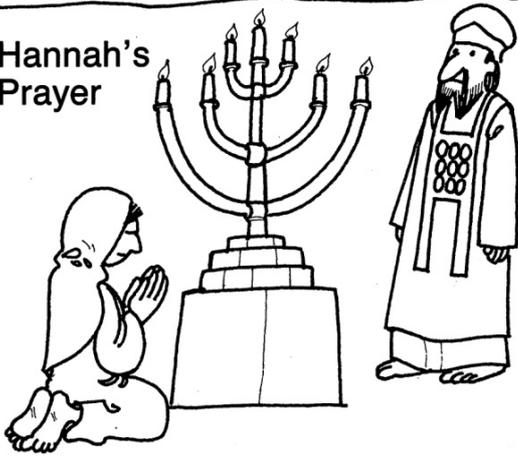
**Another person who was chosen and called by God was Samuel. You can see his story on the opposite page.**

So election begins with God, who chooses a person or a people to be his own. And the Church – including us here today – witnesses this choice.

We know the people God has **chosen** because we can see God at work in the way they live their lives. And the way that they live their lives continues to tell the world that **God is still with us**, that **God loves us** and is taking care of us.

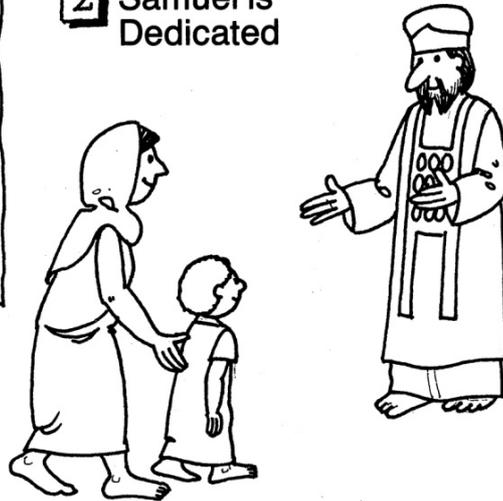
# Samuel is called by God

**1** Hannah's Prayer



Find these stories in  
1 Samuel chapters 1, 2 and 3

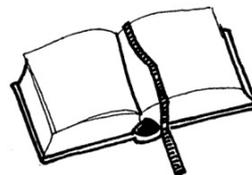
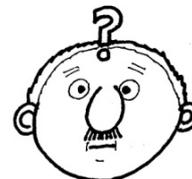
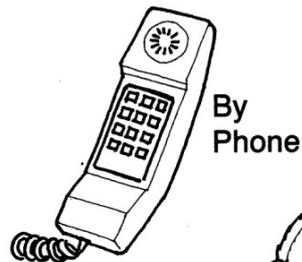
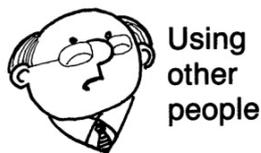
**2** Samuel is Dedicated



**3** The Lord speaks to Samuel



Put a ring around the  
ways in which God can  
speak to us



Speak Lord, your servant  
is listening (1 Samuel 3:9)



What does it feel like to be chosen to do something special?

What were you chosen to do?

Who chose you and said that you were the right choice?

How did their testimony make you feel?

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# Listening to God's Word

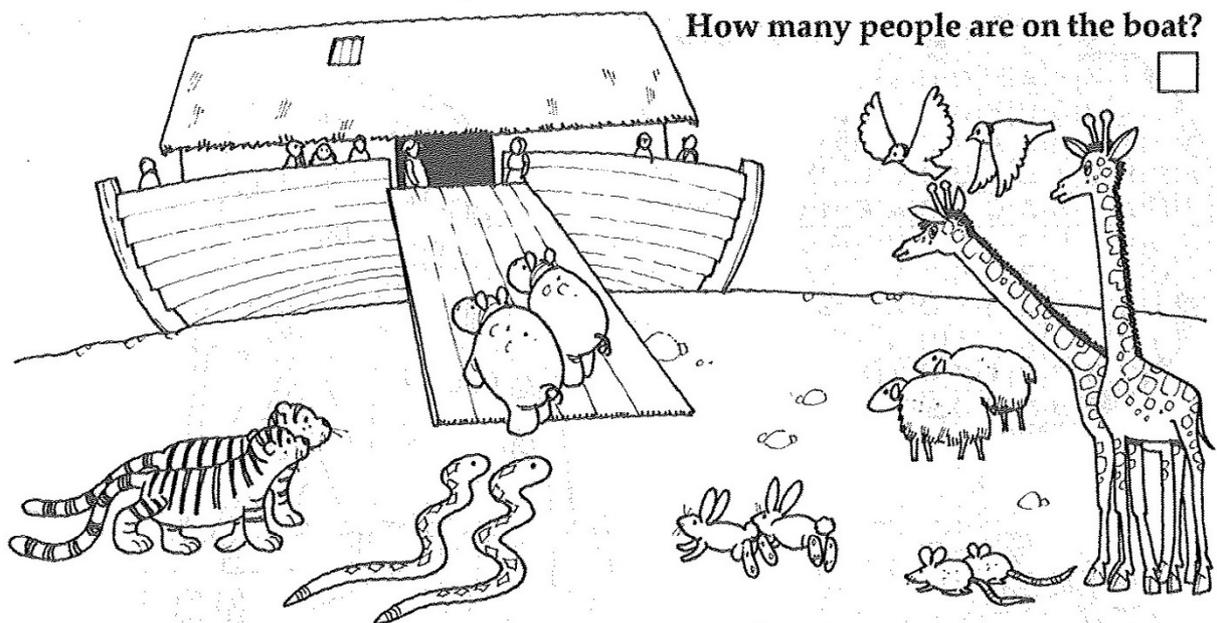
When we listen to the **readings** from the Bible, Jesus is really present as he speaks to us in the Scriptures.

He is the **Word of God**.

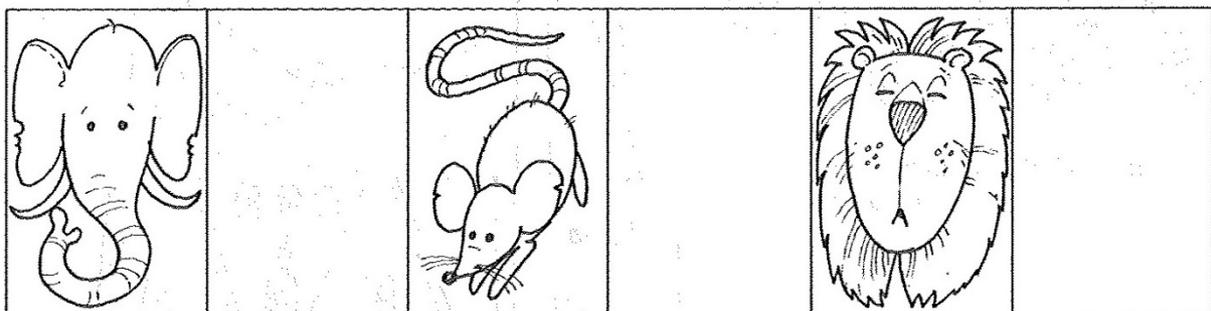
## God's word spoken to Noah

In today's first **reading** from the Book of **Genesis**, we hear about God speaking to **Noah** and making a promise (a covenant). Listen carefully to hear what that promise was.

Why do you think God chose a **rainbow** as a symbol of the covenant?



The story of Noah is in Genesis 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9



Draw in the other animal in the pair

## Jesus speaks to us in the Gospel

We **listen** not only with our ears and our minds, but **we listen with our hearts** too. God speaks to our hearts because he wants, most of all, to tell us of his love and care for us.

So we **open** our hearts to really listen and hear what is said, especially **in the Gospel** when **Jesus himself speaks to us**. That is why we **sign** our foreheads, our mouths and our hearts with a small **cross** when the priest or deacon says, “A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark” (or Matthew, Luke or John), and we reply, **“Glory to you, O Lord.”**

Today’s Gospel reading is from Mark. In **Matthew’s** version of the story, Jesus is also tempted by Satan. But Jesus refuses the **temptation** and three times proclaims that God alone is the Saviour. Only God gives real life, real power, real security.



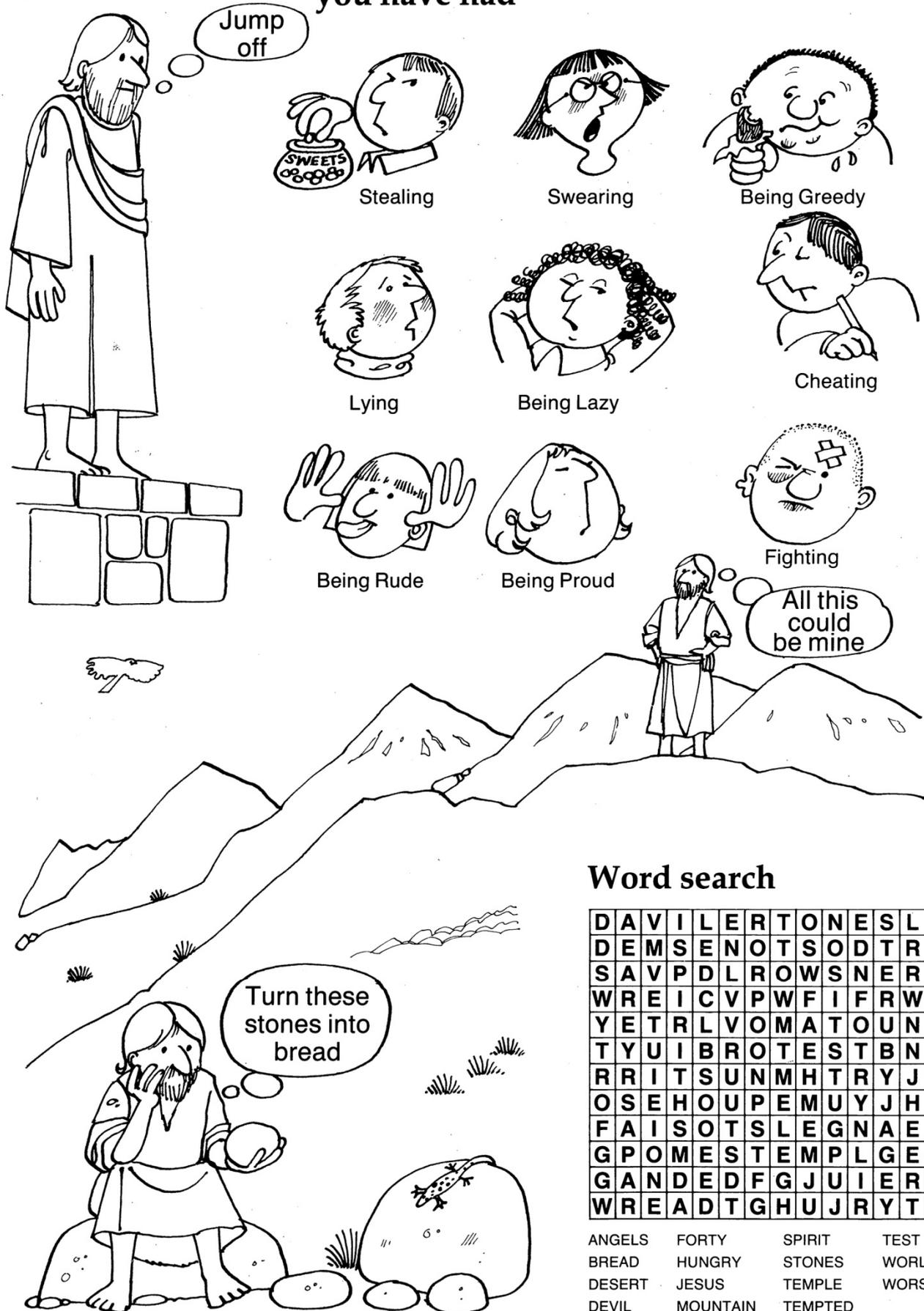
**“We do not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from God.”**

All the things we have come from God as gifts: homes, food, clothes, good health. But Jesus warns us not to make these things too important in our lives or to depend on money and power.

Sometimes we are **tempted** to want more than we need and to care more about what we have than about other people. Jesus was also tempted. Like Jesus, we have the Spirit of God to help us to do what is right.

Read Matthew 4:1-11

## Put a ring around any of these temptations you have had



## Word search

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

ANGELS    FORTY    SPIRIT    TEST  
 BREAD    HUNGRY    STONES    WORLD  
 DESERT    JESUS    TEMPLE    WORSHIP  
 DEVIL    MOUNTAIN    TEMPTED

## Chosen for Baptism

When an adult or child asks to be baptised, the Church looks for signs in that person's life of God at work. Their godparents are asked to give **witness** on their behalf.

**Here are some signs we look for:**

Does the person **listen** to God's word  
and **respond** to it?

Have they **changed** their **way of life** to match  
the way of life **Jesus** shows us in the **Gospel**?

Do they go to **Mass**  
and **pray** with the **parish community**  
and **take part** in Church **activities**?

When we see these **signs** in the person's life, we know that **God** has **chosen** them to be baptised. This choice is recognised and celebrated formally in the Rite of Election, which first happened hundreds of years ago in the early Church when the first Christians were baptised.

**Catechumen** is a Greek word meaning  
'one in whom the word echoes'.

## Enrolling Names

The Bishop asks the catechumens if they are ready to accept God's election of them, witnessed by the Church. If they are, then he **calls them by their names** – the human voice of God's call.

Your **name** is very important. When you were born you were given a name. We are called by our names and we answer when we are called.

You may know a song by Bernadette Farrell, ***You have called us by our name, we belong to you.*** We know about belonging to our human family, but in this song we are talking about belonging to God's family, about how God calls us by name.

**“I have called you by your name.  
You are mine.”**

God has called each person by name, and your name is sacred because it is part of your identity and deeply connected with who you are as a human person. Your name symbolises you. The catechumens who have been preparing to celebrate baptism are asked to give their life to God by giving their name to the Church for enrolment in the list of God's chosen ones. **They sign their names in the Book of the Elect.** This signifies that they have heard God call their name and wish to respond to his call.



**Write the name(s)** of the person or people from your family or parish you have come to support today, or draw a picture of them. (They may be catechumens or candidates.)

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Say a special **prayer** for them today, and remember them in your prayers during the next few weeks of Lent as they prepare to be baptised or to be received into full communion of the Catholic Church.



What does your name mean to you?

Do you know how you got your name?

Have you ever put your name on something important?

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# Act of Election

After he has called the catechumens' names and they have signed the Book of the Elect, the Bishop makes a powerful proclamation:

I now declare you to be members of **the elect**, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.

This **Act of Election** officially gives the catechumens a **new name**. From now until their baptism at Easter, they will be known as '**the Elect**', which means '**the chosen ones**'.



The **Elect** are those **called** by God to be his own, to be washed in the waters of baptism, anointed by the Spirit in confirmation, and nourished by Christ in the Eucharist.

# Godparents

The Bishop tells the **godparents** that they are to **support** the Elect by their **love**, **example**, and **prayers**, especially during these final days before Easter. They will be lifelong **companions** on the **journey of faith**.



Who are your godparents?

How have they helped you in your faith?

How do you think the godparents here today can help the Elect strengthen their faith?

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## Preparing for Easter

The Rite of Election is the turning point for those who are going to be baptised. They have been preparing for months and even years.

Now that the Church recognises that God has chosen them to be baptised at the next Easter Vigil, they begin a special period of **prayer** and final **preparations** for the great **Easter** celebration when they will receive the sacraments of initiation: **Baptism**, **Confirmation** and **Eucharist**.

## Baptised for Mission

All the **baptised** are God's chosen people. In each of our lives, Christ continues his **mission** of bringing peace and light into the world. We do this in very simple ways – by living as Christ in our families and with everyone we meet.

The Elect are chosen not simply for baptism but for Christ's mission. The Elect are signs that God is still indeed with us, blessing our world and recreating it with his Spirit.





Have you ever prepared for a significant moment in your life?

What were the days and weeks beforehand like?

How was that time different from your everyday life?

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