**PRAYER ACTIVITY**

**VISIO DIVINA**

**(based on *Grow in Love* 4th Class/P6)**

* Day One***: Jairus’ Daughter* (Lk 8:40-42,49-56)**
* Day Two: ***The Boy Jesus in the Temple****,* **(Lk 2:41-50)**
* Day Three: ***The Wedding in Cana* (Jn 2: 1-12)**

**NOTE:** Lectio divina (Latin for ‘sacred reading’) is a method of reading and praying with Scripture, Visio divina (Latin for ‘divine seeing’) is a method of praying using images or visual media. The Orthodox tradition has long practised praying with icons. However, the Church in the West is less familiar and perhaps less comfortable with this type of prayer. We have used a very simple adaptation of the method below to introduce the children to visio divina. The child may look at the images on <http://education.dublindiocese.ie/2014/06/19/additional-resources/>

Here are step-by-step instructions for guiding the child to pray using visio divina.

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| Day One | Day Two | Day Three |
| ***Jairus’ Daughter***  **(Lk 8:40-42,49-56)**  When Jesus returned to the other side of the lake, the people welcomed him, because they had all been waiting for him. Then a man named Jairus arrived; he was an official in the local synagogue. He threw himself down at Jesus’ feet and begged him to go to his home, because his only daughter, who was twelve years old, was dying.  While Jesus was saying this, a messenger came from the official’s house. “Your daughter has died,” he told Jairus; “don’t bother the Teacher any longer.”  But Jesus heard it and said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; only believe, and she will be well.”  When he arrived at the house, he would not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. Everyone there was crying and mourning for the child. Jesus said, “Don’t cry; the child is not dead- she is only sleeping!”  They all made fun of him, because they knew that she was dead. But Jesus took her by the hand and called out, “Get up, child!” her life returned, and she got up at once, and Jesus ordered them to her something to eat. Her parents were astounded, but Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone what had happened. | ***The Boy Jesus in the Temple****,*  **(Lk 2:41-50)**  Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; they thought that he was with the group, so they travelled the whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you,”  He answered them, “Why did you have to look for me? Didn’t you know that I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand his answer. | ***The Wedding in Cana***  **(Jn 2: 1-12)**  Two days later, there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had been invited to the wedding. When the wine had given out, Jesus mother said to him, “they are out of wine.”  “You must not tell me what to do,” Jesus replied, “my time has not yet come.”  Jesus’ mother then told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”  The Jews have rules about ritual washing, and for this purpose six stone water jars were there, each one large enough to hold between twenty and thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill these jars with water,” They filled them to the brim, and then he told them, “Now draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the feast.” They took him the water, which now had turned into wine, and he tasted it. He did not know where this wine had come from (but of course, the servants who had drawn out the water knew); so he called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guests have drunk a lot, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!”  Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee; there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.  After this, Jesus, and his mother, brother, and disciples went to Capernaum and stayed there a few days. |

After you have read the passage from Scripture, check the child’s understanding using these or similar questions:

* What happens in this story?
* What does Jesus do?
* Who speaks to Jesus?
* How does Jesus respond?

**Step 1.** Look carefully at the image, which shows a scene from

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**Step 2.** As you look at the image, let your eyes stay with the very first thing you notice. Try to keep your eyes from wandering to other parts of the picture. Breathe deeply and let yourself gaze at that part of the image for a minute or so. (Allow some time for children to focus on the image in silence.)

**Step 3.** Now let your eyes take in the whole image. Take your time and look at every part of the scene. See all the details. Reflect on it for a minute or two. (Allow some time for child to focus on the image in silence.)

**Step 4.** Think about your response to the following questions:

* What feelings are you experiencing as you look at the image?
* What would you like to say to Jesus?