

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021

# The Feast of St James



James the Great (anon)

Today, in our service, we hear two stories about St James, one of Jesus's first disciples:

Our Epistle reading: Acts 11. 27 - 12. 2:

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

Our Gospel reading: Matthew 20. 20-28

The mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are

able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

## Saint James

Not much is known about James's early life, but we know that he was the son of Zebedee and Salome and the brother of John, who was also one of Jesus's closest disciples. James was fishing with his father and John when Jesus came to the shores of the Sea of Galilee and called them to follow him, together with two other brothers, Simon and Andrew, who were also fishermen. Jesus told them that he would make them "fishers of people". Later, James was one of only three called by Jesus to witness his Transfiguration.

Following Christ's Ascension, James is said to have taken the Gospel across the Holy Land and further afield in the Roman as well. He travelled and spread the Word as far as Spain, where he spent much time. James did return to Jerusalem and became the first apostle to be martyred for his faith - by King Herod. His body was not allowed to be buried, so his remains were taken to Compostela, Spain, by some of his followers. His remains were discovered in the ninth century and moved to a tomb in the place now known as Santiago de Compostela, in North-west Spain, where they can still be found in the Cathedral.



The cathedral at Santiago de Compostela.

Saint James is remembered as the patron saint of Spain and of pilgrims. In the Middle Ages, Santiago de Compostela was the third most visited place of pilgrimage after Jerusalem and Rome and very many people still travel the pilgrimage route (Camino de Santiago) to Santiago de Compostela today.

Please scroll down for some puzzles and colouring pages.

## Fishing for People

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Mark 1:17 (TNIV)

Based on Mark 1:14-20

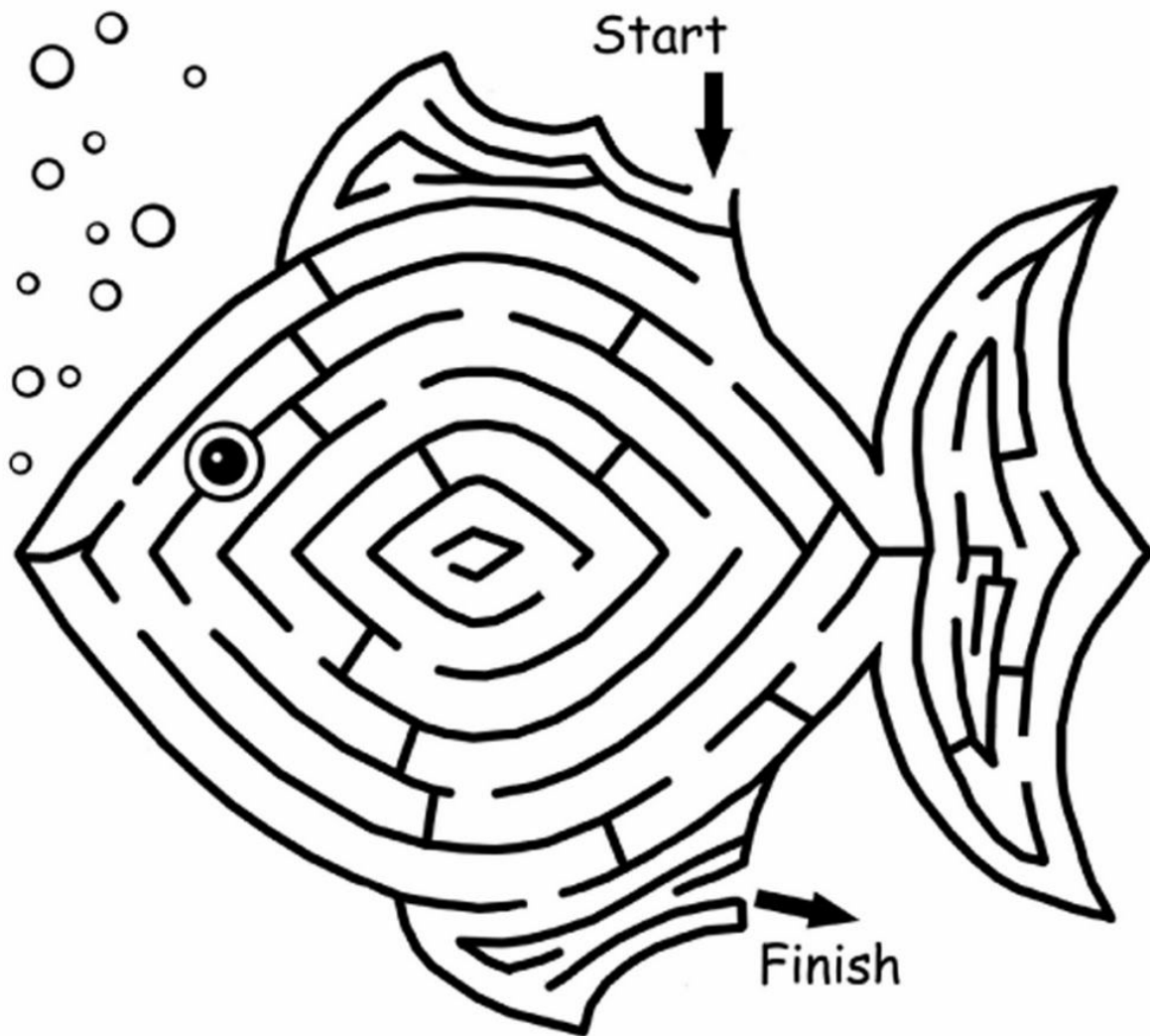


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JOHN	NEWS	CASTING	FISHERMEN	SIMON
KINGDOM	BOAT	GALILEE	NETS	BELIEVE
ANDREW	REPENT	SEA	BROTHER	FATHER
GOOD	COME	FOLLOW	JAMES	LAKE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## I like to follow Jesus!



**From now on, you will fish for people.  
Luke 5:10b**



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