

FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust



Thursday 25th January 2024

The Conversion of St Paul

**A reading from the
Acts of the Apostles 22:6-16**

One day near lunchtime, when I was traveling near Damascus; a bright light from the sky suddenly flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, '**Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?**' 'Who are you, Lord?' I asked. 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you persecute,' he said to me. The men with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. I asked, 'What shall I do, Lord?' and the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told everything that God has determined for you to do.' I was blind because of the bright light, and so my companions took me by the hand and led me into Damascus.

In that city was a man named Ananias, a religious man who obeyed our Law and was highly respected by all the Jews living there. He came to me, stood by me, and said, 'Brother Saul, see again!' At that very moment I saw again and looked at him. He said, 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see his righteous servant, and to hear him speaking with his own voice. For you will be a witness for him to tell everyone

what you have seen and heard. And now, why wait any longer? Get up and be baptised and have your sins washed away by praying to him.'

When light from God shone into Saul's life, it knocked him for six. It is hard to imagine a greater turnaround than the conversion of Saul! When he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was on his way to arrest Christians, so convinced was he that they had got everything wrong.

Three days later, he was now certain that Jesus was the Son of God and he was prepared to stand up and tell everyone that they had got it all wrong.



Paul acted in very unkind ways towards others before he met Jesus Christ. Getting to know Jesus changed his life around completely. With God's help, he learned to love others just as Jesus loved him. Jesus loves us and has the power to change us. Are you ready and willing to let Jesus change you?

Jesus also taught his disciples to pray for their enemies. Are you willing to pray for those who hurt and upset you so they can come to know Jesus?

Let us pray.

God our Father, you chose Saint Paul to teach others about your Son, Jesus.

May this help us to understand that, despite the mistakes we may make,

You still see goodness and greatness in all your children.

Guide us then, as you guided Saint Paul, so that we too,

Might share your mercy and love with everyone, everywhere.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

If you would like to support your child(ren) in understanding this story further, use the link below to find a lovely animation of this piece of scripture which you can watch together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74tflRzEy4>

Amen

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