

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
APRIL 27, 2025

FUN DAY TIMES



Offering flowers for the New Year

Pic. by Eshan Fernando



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**Please send
competition entries to:**

Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2.

**Please note that competition
entries are accepted by email.**

**Write the name of the competition
and the date clearly**

**at the top of your entry and
include the following details:**

Full Name (including Surname),

Date of Birth, Address,

Telephone Number and School.

Please underline the name
most commonly used.

**All competition entries should be
certified by a parent or guardian
as your own work.**

Competition entries without the
full details requested above,
will be disqualified.

**Closing date
for this week's competitions:**

May 14, 2025

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Young kids making and lighting 'Bamboo Cannon' fireworks to herald Avurudu in Saliyawewa.



Pix by Jayarathna Wickramaarachchi



**Giggles International
Montessori
Avurudu Festival
was held at Ape Gama
on April 8, 2025.**



Pix by Eshan Fernando

Happy Birthday



**Aflal Ahamed Nafas
12 years on April 17**

Photographs of members
and non-members between
4 – 15 years, for the birthday
page, should reach us at least
ten days before the birthday,
along with a letter from a
parent giving full details.



Sinhala and Tamil New Year traditions were celebrated at Maple Kids International along with fun Avurudu games.

Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



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Twelve Apostles



Twelve Apostles, is a spectacular group of rock formations that line the coast of southwestern Victoria, Australia. Part of Port Campbell National Park, the Twelve Apostles lie in the Southern Ocean just east of Port Campbell and about 275 km (170 miles) west of Melbourne. They are a popular tourist attraction on the Great Ocean Road, a scenic route along the Victorian coast, and are often photographed at sunset, when the play of light makes them appear especially majestic in shades of orange and red.



The Twelve Apostles initially went by the name of Sow and Piglets. The Sow was Mutton Bird Island and her Piglets were the 12 Apostles. The name was changed in the 1950s to represent the Biblical Twelve Apostles. Despite there being only nine rocks in the formation, the stacks were officially named after the Apostles of Jesus in an effort to attract tourists.

In 2005, a pillar standing some 50 metres (160 feet) tall collapsed as a result of continuing erosion; another collapsed in 2009. Six of the seven remaining stacks are easily visible from the main viewing platform.

Each of the Twelve Apostles is a limestone sea stack, a type of coastal rock formation shaped by weathering and erosion. Some 10 to 20 million years ago the stacks formed part of the soft limestone cliffs of the mainland shoreline. Over time, ocean waves and wind eroded the cliffs and gouged out sea caves.

Eventually, the persistent weathering and erosion wore away the caves and the cliff margins until sea arches formed. When the tops of the arches finally collapsed, only the most resistant rock remained, as isolated pillars — the Twelve Apostles sea stacks.

The tallest of these extends some 45 metres (150 feet) above the surface of the water, and each contains millions of tiny marine fossils.

Like the cliffs, caves and arches that preceded them, the Twelve Apostles continue to be lashed by wave and wind action, and they too will ultimately be worn away.

In March 2023, the Federal Court of Australia formally recognized the Eastern Maar peoples as the traditional owners of more than 8,500 square km (more than 3,280 square miles) of land located in southwestern Victoria, including the Twelve Apostles.

Quick Facts

- The Twelve Apostles are a stellar example of earth's natural transformation, which has been going on ever since its inception.
- The limestone rocks at Port Campbell are estimated to be approximately 15 to 20 million years old.
- Currently there are only eight rock stacks and in the past there were nine rock stacks.
- On a map dated 1846, there were a lot more than twelve rock stacks on this site.
- The beach can be accessed via Gibsons Steps to view the imposing 70 metre high vertical cliff line.
- These rock formations turn into colours of sandy yellow and orange under a full sun at sunrise and sunset.
- Approximately 1.7 million people visit the Twelve Apostles every year.
- It is estimated that the formations we now see have taken shape over the last 6000 years.
- The road to the 12 Apostles is breath-taking with its dramatic, rugged cliffs carved from the sea and its panoramic views.

Sources: Easy Science for Kids and Britannica Kids

Famous Landmarks Quiz 59

Q: How many rock stacks are there in the Twelve Apostles and how old are they estimated to be?



Famous Landmarks Quiz 58

Suresh Bramman,
Ragama





Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

Word Count: 150

Topic: How I enjoyed the Sinhala and Tamil New Year holidays

Win: Well Done Secret Seven by Enid Blyton

The Secret Seven are delighted with their new treehouse in Windy Wood. That is, until they discover that a stranger has been living there in secret!

But the gang's shock soon turns to concern when their uninvited guest is caught up in a dangerous mystery. Can the friends get to the bottom of things before it's too late?



Age: 10 – 12 years

Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: What you know about Earth Day

Win: The Naughtiest Girl by Enid Blyton

Elizabeth Allen is spoilt and selfish. When she's sent away to boarding school, she makes up her mind to be the naughtiest pupil there's ever been!

But Elizabeth finds out that being bad isn't as simple as it seems at Whyteleaf School.



Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

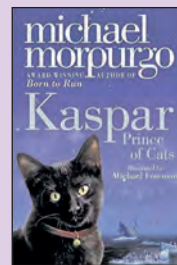
Topic: The Festival of Easter

Win: Kaspar Prince of Cats by Michael Morpurgo

They say cats have nine lives, and that's certainly true of Kaspar. From the glamorous suites of the Savoy Hotel to the servants' quarters in the attic and from a crowded lifeboat to the hustle and bustle of

New York City, Kaspar proves that no cat is too small for high adventures.

But this is no ordinary cat. He's Prince Kaspar Kandinsky – the only cat to survive the sinking of the Titanic.



Write at the top of your Essay

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Read-a-Book Competition

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Date of birth :

Address :

School:

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Finished book on :

Hi Kids,

Please send in your Articles and Art for Kids' World, to be published in the Funday Times online edition and website.

As you can see, we have space only once a month for Kids' World articles and art in the print edition.

Therefore, we are planning to carry them every week in the Funday Times online pages as well as on the Funday Times website.

We also invite schools to send in their students' work for a school page in the online edition and website.

Thanking you in anticipation of your positive response.



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FROM THE EDITOR



Young Reporters

If you are interested in joining as a Funday Times Young Reporter please fill in the coupon given and send it in to us along with a recent report or interview not exceeding 300 words. Photographs or illustrations would enhance the report.

Young Reporters who have already enrolled with us, please send in new reports for publication.



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World leaders pay tribute to Pope Francis

April 21, 2025

King Charles III and UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer have joined world leaders in paying tribute to Pope Francis who has died aged 88.

The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church and for the approximately 1.4 billion Roman Catholics represents a direct link to Jesus.

He died at his residence in the Vatican City, where Popes traditionally live and work.

The Vatican is the smallest independent state in the world and is surrounded by the Italian capital, Rome.

The 266th Pope, Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina in 1936 and was elected to lead the Catholic Church in March 2013.

Pope Francis had been in ill health for many weeks and had spent a lot of time in hospital.

His death came a day after he wished "Happy Easter" to worshippers at the Vatican's St. Peter's Square.

What have world leaders being saying about the Pope?

King Charles III said, he "will be remembered for his compassion, his concern for the unity of the Church and for his tireless commitment to the common causes of all people of faith."

The UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said: "His tireless efforts to promote a world that is fairer for all will leave a lasting legacy."

French President Emmanuel Macron was one of the first leaders to react to the news, calling Pope Francis a "man of humility."

US President Donald Trump posted a message on social media saying, "Rest in Peace Pope Francis! May God Bless him and all who loved him!"



Pope Francis made appearances during Holy Week and Easter weekend.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Pope Francis' "affection for the people of India will always be cherished."

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez paid tribute to Pope Francis's commitment to the "most vulnerable" and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said the news "saddens us deeply," adding: "I had the privilege of enjoying his friendship."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said "he inspired millions, far beyond the Catholic Church, with his humility and love so pure for the less fortunate."

Egypt's President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi said Pope Francis "was a voice of peace, love and compassion."

Cardinal Farrell who announced his death on behalf of the Vatican said "His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and His Church."

Who is the Pope?

The Pope is the leader of the Catholic Church, and leads over a billion Roman Catholics worldwide.

There have been Popes since the early days of the Christian Church and they have played a big role in European and world history.

The role is considered to be the successor of Saint Peter, one of the Christian Church's early leaders and one of the 12 apostles of Jesus.

The Pope is also in charge of the smallest independent state in the world, the Vatican City, which sits within the city of Rome in Italy.

What does the Pope do?

About half of all Christians worldwide are Roman Catholics and consider the Pope to be their leader.

The role of the Pope includes leading religious ceremonies in the Vatican and appointing Bishops.

What happens when the Pope dies?

After the Pope's funeral, Pope Francis' body will be placed in an open coffin in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City for members of the public to pay their respects for several days.



After the funeral people will be able to pay their respects in St Peter's Basilica.

Pope Francis will be the first Pope for over 100 years to be buried outside of the Vatican. Instead he will be buried at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of four major Catholic churches in Rome.

The period after the Pope's death and the election of a new Pope is called the 'interregnum.'

How is a new Pope chosen?

The new pope is elected by the Catholic church's most senior priests, called cardinals.

They travel from all over the world to the Vatican for what is known as the 'Conclave:' a meeting where they vote for who should be the next Pope.

There are currently 252 Catholic cardinals, and 135 of them under 80 years of age, are able to vote for the new pope.

A cardinal needs two thirds of votes to become Pope. The process can take several days.

Although the vote is done in complete secrecy, people outside are given clues to what is happening, because of the smoke that is released twice a day from the burning of the cardinals' ballot papers.

If the smoke is black, no Pope has been elected, but if the smoke is white a new Pope has been chosen.



At Easter thousands of Catholics gather at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

Source: CBBC Newsround

Earth Day 2025: What's it all about?

April 22, 2025

This year marks 55 years since Earth Day first began.

The day started in the US in 1970 and has now spread globally, celebrated by millions of people across the world.

It's a chance for people to honour the achievements of the environmental movement and highlight the need to protect the planet.

Earth Day takes place every year on 22 April.

What is Earth Day and how did it start?

Earth Day is a global movement which happens every year on 22 April.



Earth Day started in the US in 1970.

The first-ever Earth Day was held in 1970 in the United States, when 20 million people took to the streets to protest against big environmental issues, including oil spills, polluted rivers and air pollution.



By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day had led to the US Environmental Protection Agency being set up, and several environmental laws were brought in or strengthened.

In 1990 it became a global event. Organisers say over a billion people take part in events to mark the day in hundreds of countries all over the world.

What is the theme for Earth Day 2025?

Every year there is a different theme for Earth Day.

The theme for Earth Day 2025 is 'Our power, Our planet', which focuses on renewable energy.



The organisers are encouraging people to express their views to raise awareness.

The organisers are calling for renewable energy generation to be tripled by 2030 around the world.

They are also encouraging people to take part in environmental actions by signing petitions and organising protests.

In previous years, themes included plastic pollution and species protection.

CBBC Newsround

Sony World Photography Awards



Photographer of the Year winner Zed Nelson took this photo of a chimpanzee in front of a painted background.



The winner of the Youth competition, Daniel Dian-Ji Wu, took this photo at Venice Beach Skatepark in LA.



April 22

News in Pictures



Vatican City

Seals are placed on the Apostolic Palace, after the death of Pope Francis, at the Vatican.



Rome, Italy

People gather near St Peter's Square after the death of Pope Francis.



Kharkiv, Ukraine

Pupils attend a first day in the newly opened underground school that allows children to safely return to in-person studies, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in a remote part of the Osnovyansky district in Kharkiv.

Banda Aceh, Indonesia

University students take part in mangrove planting to mark Earth Day in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.



April 21



San Lorenzo Dorsino, Italy

The peloton passes through vineyards in Trentino during stage 1 of the 45th Tour of the Alps 2025.



Vatican City,

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's secretary of state, stands near the body of Pope Francis, placed in an open casket during the rite of the declaration of death in Santa Marta residence at the Vatican.

Quetta, Pakistan

A security official stands guard as a health worker administers a polio vaccination to a child. Pakistan has launched its second nationwide polio vaccination campaign, running from 21 to 27 April, aiming to vaccinate more than 45 million children.



Jerusalem, Israel

People gather at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, on the day of the Holy Fire ceremony, in Jerusalem's Old City.



Attendorn, Germany

People light torches to light the Easter fire on a hill west of the country. For centuries, traditional fires have been lit in different German cities, where people meet on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday to say goodbye to winter and celebrate Easter.

Sources: The Guardian & Reuters