

Children's liturgy – Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Preparing for worship

If you are with the children, prepare the materials. If you are running an online session, let parents know in advance what is needed and suggest they download and print the illustration where possible from cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

Colour: green

Props: coloured paper or card, glue, pencils and pens

Song suggestions: Will you let me be your servant (813, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today Jesus reminds us that it is not power or money which makes us important, but how much we help other people. Let's think about how we can help others today.

Opening prayer: Servant God, show us how we can help others, so that all members of our global family can live free from hunger and poverty.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 53:10-11

Psalm: Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22 r. 2

Gospel acclamation: *Everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "there is something we want you to do for us."

"What is it?" Jesus asked them.

They answered, "When you sit on your throne in your glorious Kingdom, we want you to let us sit with you, one at your right and one at your left."

Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking for. Can you drink the cup of suffering that I must drink? Can you be baptized in the way I must be baptized?"

"We can," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup I must drink and be baptized in the way I must be baptized. But I do not have the right to choose who will sit at my right and my left. It is God who will give these places to those for whom he has prepared them."

When the other ten disciples heard about it, they became angry with James and John. So Jesus called them all together to him and said, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority. This, however, is not the way it is among you. If one of you wants to be great, he must be the servant of the rest; and if one of you wants to be first, he must be the slave of all. For

even the Son of Man did not come to be served; he came to serve and to give his life to redeem many people.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

James and John ask to sit by Jesus' side in heaven, but Jesus says he is not able to give them these seats.

The other disciples start to get cross with James and John. Why do you think they get cross?

The disciples felt that James and John were showing off and that James and John thought they were the best and most important disciples.

Can you think of a time when you got angry because someone else was showing off about how important they are? Perhaps someone was showing off that they were the best footballer or that they had better shoes or toys than you?

Can you remember what Jesus said to the disciples to stop them from being angry at each other?

Jesus said that the greatest disciple was not the one who went around showing off his power, or money, or things. But rather that the greatest disciple must be like a servant – humble and helping others in all that they do.

Paolo lives in an informal settlement, built high into the steep hillside of southern Lima. Lima is the capital city of Peru, a country in Latin America. He is volunteering his time every Sunday to help make this a nicer place to live.

He is working on a new staircase. Without these staircases, the paths leading to the houses are dangerous. The staircases make it much easier for people to move down the hills quickly, especially if there is a fire, an earthquake or a landslide.

Paolo is helping to build the future of his community. He says, "Community service is really important."

Can you think of things that people in our parish community do to help others, locally and overseas? *(Prompt the children with relevant examples from your own parish, or tell them about the work of the SVP, or other groups in the parish or in your local community that you know about that help others.)*

Can you think of ways you can help people at home and at school this coming week?

What will you do this week to help others around the world?

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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Let's pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may follow Jesus' example and reach out to help those who are in need, so that they may change their lives and build a happy future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world: that they may feel able to reach out and help those who are finding things difficult. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends, that we may always be ready to listen to the needs of others, and to give them the help that is right for them, so that all people may live free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of hope, encourage us to reach out when we see people who need our help. Open our hearts so that we may work together to make the world a fairer place for all people. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write in some of the bricks how they will help others during the coming week.

Cut rectangular "bricks" out of paper and encourage the children to write or draw on these how they will help others during the coming week. They could stick their finished bricks on a large sheet of paper to build a "wall of helpfulness" of the whole group.

Remind the children to share all that they heard and thought about with the people at home during the week, and to do at least one helpful thing every day for the next week.

*Gospel passage taken from:
Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
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