

Children's liturgy – Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: paper hearts, colouring pens and pencils

Song suggestions: A new commandment I give unto you (920, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus has a very important message for his disciples, and for all who believe in him. Jesus asks us to love one another as he loves us. Let's think about how we can do that today.

Opening prayer: God of hope, you sent your Son Jesus to teach us how to love one another. Help us to follow his example and to love all our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 14:21-27

Psalm: Psalm 144:8-13 r 1

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

Gospel: John 13:31-35

After Judas had left, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man's glory is revealed; now God's glory is revealed through him. And if God's glory is revealed through him, then God will reveal the glory of the Son of Man in himself, and he will do so at once. My children, I shall not be with you very much longer. You will look for me; but I tell you now what I told the Jewish authorities, 'You cannot go where I am going.' And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

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

Jesus tells his disciples that he will not be with them for much longer and he tells them how he'd like them to behave. Can you remember what he told them to do?

Jesus told the disciples to love one another, just as he had loved them.

What do you think this means? How did Jesus show his love for people?

Jesus spent time with people, especially those who were sick, lonely, frightened or poor. He listened to them and ate with them. He healed them and he helped them to change their lives for the better.

So do you think this message to love other people was just for the disciples? What do you think Jesus wants us to do?

Jasmin lives in Peru. There is lots of violence where she lives, but Jasmin belongs to a children's group that tries to improve the area where she lives. Together they created a children's park. Jasmin and her friends helped to clear the rubbish and now they have a safe place to play.

During Lent children and young people all over England and Wales walked in solidarity with the 200 million children around the world at risk of malnutrition. By getting sponsored to walk, they raised thousands of pounds to fight hunger.

The children in the CAFOD club at St Chad's primary school in Croydon were one group who got involved:

Mathias explains: "In our CAFOD club we try to raise awareness in our school community and in our parish about our global neighbours who need our help, support and love.

As a school we all walked together around the school playing fields. The CAFOD club children led the school in a chant and clap as we walked around. We had a great time and felt like we were joining in a small act of love for others."

The group also made friendship bracelets to sell to raise money and awareness, as Faith explained: "We want to try and help our global neighbours. We are all part of God's family, and all families take care of each other."

Paolo lives in Lima, the capital of Peru. He lives high up on the hillsides. He gives up his time every Sunday to help make his neighbourhood a better place to live. The paths up and down the hillside are very steep, so Paolo is helping to build a staircase. This staircase will make it easier for people to move around and to get to safety if there is a fire or an earthquake.

How do you think Jasmin, Paolo and the children at St Chad's school are showing their love for others?

Their stories show us that we can all make a difference and find our own way to love one another.

Jesus asks us all to love one another as he loves us. What will you do to show your love for others this week?

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

We pray together to the God who loves us:

We pray for world leaders: that they may follow Jesus's example and show special care for people who are poor, sick, alone or afraid. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children around the world: that they may be loved and cared for and have hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may love one another as Jesus loves us. Lord, in your mercy...

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

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Closing prayer: Loving God, fill us with your love and help us to share this love with others, especially with those who are poor, sick, lonely or frightened. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw how they will love one another in the coming week.

Give the children a heart-shaped piece of paper. Encourage them to write a prayer on it for all their brothers and sisters throughout the world, or to write or draw how they will love one another in the coming week.

Find out more about some of the amazing ways children in Peru are showing their love for others in their community by trying to make it a better place to live at:

cafod.org.uk/primary/changemakers

If you download the Zappar app then you can make the pictures on this page come to life!

Remind the children to tell the people at home all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a prayer encourage them to say it together during the week. Invite the children to do at least one thing in the next week to show their love for others.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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