

Children's liturgy – Pentecost (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Red

Props: Coloured pens and pencils. Cardboard boxes to make little rooms or houses. Paper and glue.

Song suggestions:

A new commandment I give unto you. (920, *Laudate*)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells the disciples that if they love him then they will keep his commandments and that once Jesus has left them, he will send the Holy Spirit to guide and protect them. Let's find out more...

Opening prayer: All-loving God, out of love you sent your Son, Jesus Christ to save us, and out of love he sent the Holy Spirit - that we might never be alone. Thanks be to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 2:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. Cf. v.30

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

Gospel: John 14:15-16, 23-26

Jesus said to his disciples

"If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever.

Those who love me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and my Father and I will come to them and live with them. Those who do not love me do not obey my teaching. And the teaching you have heard is not mine, but comes from the Father, who sent me.

I have told you this while I am still with you. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you."

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

Gospel reflection: Today is the feast of Pentecost. We remember that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with his disciples. Pentecost means 50 in Greek as the Holy Spirit came to the disciples 50 days after Easter.

What do you remember from today's reading?

This passage is part of the last conversations Jesus has with his disciples before he dies and so he is preparing them to live without his leadership.

Jesus tells them that if they love him, they will do as he has asked them. What has Jesus asked the disciples to do?

He has asked them to love one another as he has loved them. And he says that God will send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever and to help them. The Holy Spirit will teach the disciples everything they need to know once Jesus has left and will remind them of Jesus' words while he was with them.

Jesus also says that if we love him, his Father will love us and live with us. What do you think this means?

Do you think God will live in our house with us, sleep in the spare room and sit down with us to eat dinner like a guest?

Maybe not, but God lives with us in our hearts. God is always there and the Holy Spirit is always guiding us to do what is right.

How do you think we can make sure we are welcoming God into our lives? (*By listening to his word, loving God and other people, etc*)

In some versions of this gospel story, Jesus says that God will “make a home” in anyone who listens to his word.

This is another way of saying that God will always be with them.

Having a home is very important.

Last summer there was a powerful earthquake in a country called Haiti. Homes, schools and churches were damaged and destroyed, and many people died.

Lots of Catholics in England and Wales gave money to CAFOD to help the people in Haiti. This was sent to Caritas Haiti, another member of the worldwide Church network that CAFOD is part of, together with money from the Church in France, Spain, Belgium, the United States, Canada and other countries around the world.

In this way, the Catholic community all around the world supported the people of Haiti with clean drinking water, food, and tarpaulins for temporary shelters straight after the earthquake.

Caritas Haiti was also able to pay local people to help rebuild their homes and fix the roads. This meant that they could have somewhere safe to live and have money to spend on the things that they need.

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

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So, this week let's remember to try and show our love for God and for others here and around the world. Especially people who don't have a home to live in.

Let's especially remember that God is always with us and listen to God's words to us. And let us be guided by the Holy Spirit, who was given to the disciples on the first Pentecost and is still with us today, to show our love for God and for other people.

How will you show your love for God in the coming week?
How will you show your love for others in the coming week?

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

Jesus asked us to love one another in his name so we pray together...

We pray for the Church: that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, it may follow Jesus' example of love for all. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for everyone who does not have a home: that they may find the help and support they need to rebuild their lives. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and shine out love for all to see. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Ever-loving God, send us your Spirit, give us your courage, so that we may follow you and love you all the days of our lives. Let us share this love with others throughout the world. Amen.

Activity suggestions:

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to draw in all the things they want to put in each room (objects, people, pets etc.). Invite them to put themselves in the house doing something that shows their love for God and/or for other people. And finally, to add a symbol of the Holy Spirit or God's love for us in the house as a reminder that God is always with us.

Use the cardboard boxes to make rooms for one big house and encourage the children to label all the different rooms in the house. Then encourage them to draw a symbol of God's love in each room. Let them be as creative as possible in spreading love into every room.

Or you could encourage the children to use the cardboard boxes to build a model house designed to withstand storms, floods, earthquakes or other extreme weather. Invite them to be as creative as possible in their ideas of what the house should look like and the features that it needs.

Remind the children to go share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with the people at home. Remind them to do all that they can in the

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coming week to show their love for God, and to make a welcoming home for God in their lives. Perhaps they could also do one thing in the coming week to help those who are homeless either here or overseas.

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)

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