

Children's liturgy – Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: heart-shaped paper or card, pens and pencils

Song suggestions: Love is his word, love is his way (803, Laudate)
A new commandment (920, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells us that if we love Him, we must keep His commandments. And that God loves those who listen to and love His son. Let's think a bit more about love today.

Opening prayer: God of love, you sent your only Son into the world to show us how to live. Help us to love you and one another in our words and in all that we do. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Psalm: Psalm 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. v.1

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

Gospel: John 14:15-21

"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 for ever. He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him, because it cannot see him or know him. But you know him, because he remains with you and is in you.

"When I go, you will not be left all alone; I will come back to you. In a little while the world will see me no more, but you will see me; and because I live, you also will live. When that day comes, you will know that I am in my Father and that you are in me, just as I am in you.

"Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. My Father will love those who love me; I too will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

Gospel reflection: Jesus is trying to prepare his disciples for what is coming next – his death on the cross and his rising again.

Can you remember some of what he tells the disciples?

He tells them that if they love him, they must keep his commandments.

Can you remember the commandments that Jesus has given us?

Jesus asked us to love God and to love one another.

How do you show your love for others? How do others show their love for you?

It is often easy to show our love for those people who are close to us. We can be kind and generous to our friends, we can listen to our parents, carers and teachers. We can share with our brother or sister.

And they show their love for us by comforting us when we are upset, by looking after us and by sharing their things with us too.

But we are all God's children. God loves each and every one of us because we are special. And so we need to do our best to show our love to all people, not just those who are close by.

How do you think we can show our love for our sisters and brothers around the world?

We can show our love by caring for our world, which is the home we all share. We can try to make the world a fairer place, by making sure world leaders or others who have power, know that we want them to make a difference. We can stand up for what we believe in and try to make a change so that all people feel loved, respected and supported to build the life they want for themselves and for their family.

How will you show your love for others, both here and around the world in the coming week?

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

We believe that we are loved by God and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a living example of God's love for all people, especially those who are in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world: that together we may do all that we can to build a better world, free from hunger and poverty, and filled with love. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may love God with all our hearts and be inspired to reach out in love to others. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Christ Jesus, you came into the world to show us how to live. May we follow your commandment of love for one another and do what we can to care for all people, especially those who are poor. Amen.

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

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Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of some children filled with joy and love for one another. Encourage them on the back to write or draw how they will show their love for others in the coming week.

Give the children heart shapes cut out of paper or card. Encourage them to write the name of someone they love on one side, and of someone who loves them on the other. Then under each name ask them to write or draw what they will do to show their love for these people in the coming week.

Encourage the children to write a prayer thanking God for all the people in the world that they love and who are important to them, asking God to bless them and watch over them. Remind the children to think about people they know and also all their brothers and sisters around the world in this prayer.

Remind the children to share with their grown ups all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today. If they have written a prayer, encourage them to say this together at home during the week, perhaps at bedtime. Invite them to do at least one thing that shows their love for others during the coming week.

One way that we can show our love for one another is by calling for change when we can see that something is unfair. Involve the children in our latest campaign action to protect the freedom of farmers to choose, save and share their seeds. There is a special activity linked to this campaign at cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy. You can find out more information about the **campaign at cafod.org.uk/food**

*Gospel passage taken from:

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