

## Children's liturgy – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

**Colour:** green

**Song suggestions:** Look around you, can you see? (936, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today we hear about how Jesus helped a blind man called Bartimaeus to see again. Sometimes we see things that are not fair or right, but it can be a lot harder to see how to change these things. Let's think about how we can help everyone to see what we can do to make the world a fairer place.

**Opening prayer:** God of healing power, help us to see what is not right or fair in our world. Open our eyes to see the changes we can make so that everyone can have hope for a fairer future. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Jeremiah 31:7-9

**Psalm:** Psalm 125 r. 3

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

**Gospel:** Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho, and as Jesus was leaving with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus! Son of David! Take pity on me!"

Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, take pity on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called the blind man. "Cheer up!" they said. "Get up, he is calling you."

He threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

"Teacher," the blind man answered, "I want to see again."

"Go," Jesus told him, "your faith has made you well."

At once he was able to see and followed Jesus on the road.

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

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

Jesus was leaving a town called Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd was following him. A blind man called Bartimaeus asked Jesus for healing, and Jesus agreed.

Why did Jesus agree? It was not just because Jesus was kind, but also because he could see that Bartimaeus really believed in him.

How do you think Bartimaeus must have felt to be able to see again?

I imagine he was so happy, joyful, and amazed at all the colours and sights that he could see around him.

For those of us who are not blind or visually impaired, we might take our gift of sight for granted. We might not realise just how wonderful the trees, birds, flowers and people we see are, because we see them every day.

We might also have times when we try to ignore things that we see, or we pretend that we can't see them. For instance, we might pretend not to see the toys we have left scattered all over the floor when we are asked to tidy up. We might ignore the homeless person that we see asking for money.

Can you think of a time when you ignored something or pretended not to see it?

Why do you think that sometimes we do this?

We might be afraid to step in between two people who are fighting, so we pretend not to see it. We might be feeling lazy and not want to tidy up, so we ignore the toys. Even though we know what the right thing to do is.

Sometimes we know what we have seen isn't fair or right, but we don't know what to do about it. It can be easier to pretend that we haven't seen the problem than to work out what to do to make it better.

But just because we pretend the problem isn't there, does that really mean that it has gone away? So what do you think we should try to do?

Can you think of some big problems that you can see in our world that aren't fair?

Do you think it's fair that not everyone has enough food to eat or clean water to drink?

Do you think it's fair that some people have to leave their homes and things behind to try and find somewhere safe to live?

Do you think it's fair that many people, especially the poorest people, are already facing damage to their homes and crops because of the climate crisis?

These things are not fair, but we can all play a part in trying to build a fairer world. We can try not to waste food or water and call on others to do the same. We can care for our planet and the people around us.

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For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)

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We can try to make sure that our government and other world leaders see that we care about the planet. That we want them to make a change to care for our world and all the living things in it, so that the earth, the home we all live in, can be protected now and in the future.

We can tell others and help them to see that there is a problem, but also that there are ways to make our world a fairer place. If we all work together, you and me, world leaders and big businesses, and people from all around the world, we will see what difference we can really make.

What will you do if you see something this week that you know is unfair?

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

We pray together:

We pray for world leaders: may their eyes be opened to the problems we all face, and may they work to bring about a fairer world for all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our world: may we all be inspired to play our part in caring for it and encouraging those who cause the most damage to it to make a change to protect it. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may have the courage to act when we see something that we know is not right, so we may help to create a fairer world. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** Christ Jesus, help us to see what we can do to make a change, so that our world may be a fairer place for all. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to “spot the difference”. Which picture shows something unfair and which shows a possible solution? Encourage them to draw on the back what change they would like to see in the world to make it a fairer place for all people to live.

Encourage the children to take part in the Eyes of the world campaign and call on the Prime Minister to support the world’s poorest communities affected by the climate crisis. Find out more at [cafod.org.uk/primary](https://cafod.org.uk/primary)

Remind the children to share all that they heard and thought about with the people at home during the week, and to look out for anything that is unfair. If they do see anything that isn’t right, can they see a way to make the situation fairer and try to their best to do so?

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