

Children's liturgy – All Saints (Year B)

Colour: white

Song suggestions: Seek ye first the kingdom of God (820, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we celebrate the feast of All Saints, when we remember all the people who have lived their lives really well and who have died and gone to heaven. Let's also think about how we can follow their example and live our lives as God wants us to.

Opening prayer: God of life, we give thanks for all the holy men and women who have lived throughout the world. Help us to live as you would like us to by showing love to all, bringing peace and always trying to do what is right. Amen.

First reading (optional): Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

Psalm: Psalm 23:1-6 r.6

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

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered round him, and he began to teach them:

“Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor;
the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

“Happy are those who mourn;
God will comfort them!

“Happy are those who are humble;
they will receive what God has promised!

“Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires;
God will satisfy them fully!

“Happy are those who are merciful to others;
God will be merciful to them!

“Happy are the pure in heart;
they will see God!

“Happy are those who work for peace;
God will call them his children!

“Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires;
the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

“Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted.

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

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

Today we hear Jesus telling us exactly what kind of person he wants us to be, and the kind of person that he has special love and care for. Can you remember what he says?

Here they are again. Listen carefully to the list and see if you can think of anyone who these remind you of:

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Happy are those who are sad.

Happy are the humble and gentle.

Happy are those who want to do what God asks of them.

Happy are those who show mercy to others.

Happy are the pure and good.

Happy are those who work for peace.

Happy are those who are laughed at, picked on or hurt because of what they believe.

We all know people who live like this – who really follow Jesus in their lives. It might be someone well known, who lots of people have heard of. Or it might be a friend or a family member. Let's just think quietly about them for a moment.

We know there have been lots of saints in our world too. People who have lived their lives as God has asked of them. How many saints can you think of? Can you tell me some of their names?

Saint Oscar Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador, in a country in Latin America called El Salvador. He worked for peace and stood up for what was right in a time of great violence in his country. He was on the side of people who were poor and tried to change things to make his country a more peaceful and fairer place.

Saint Romero made the people in power in his country very angry by pointing out what they were doing wrong. And so he was killed while he saying Mass.

How do you think Saint Romero followed what Jesus asked of him? (*You could remind the children of the following beatitudes which seem to fit closely with the life of Saint Romero: happy are those who are persecuted, happy are those who work for peace, happy are those who want to do what God asks of them*)

Perhaps this week we can try particularly hard to remember what it is that Jesus asks of us. Perhaps you could choose to try and be one of the types of people that Jesus says will be happy this week: gentle and humble, merciful, pure and good, peaceful, doing what is right. Or perhaps you can show special care to those who are sad, laughed at or hurt, or poor.

Will you try to be gentle? Will you try to be merciful? Will you try to bring peace? How will you do these things 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 pray together to God, who loves and care for each one of us:

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

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We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may show God's love for all in our world, spreading peace, speaking out for what is right and bringing comfort to those in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people throughout the world: that they may find comfort when they are sad, strength to stand up for what they believe in and mercy, peace and love for one another in their hearts. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be inspired by the example of the Saints and of all those who have followed Jesus, so that we may live our lives as God wants us to. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of wisdom, help us as we try to follow the right path. May we share your peace and love with others and try to make the world a fairer place for all to live. Amen.

Saint Oscar Romero, pray for us.

Saint [*add name of your parish saint here*], pray for us.

All holy men and women, pray for us.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration, which shows some children putting the Beatitudes into action, and on the back to write or draw what they will do this week to try to follow Jesus.

Encourage the children to think of all those people they know who have died and are now in heaven. You could ask them to write the names and collect them into a book of remembrance to be displayed for the whole of November.

Share the lives of some more of the Saints with the children – either those canonised by the Church, or people who have lived their lives very well. You could particularly focus on local Saints or those who had a special interest in helping people who are poor. You can find some CAFOD resources about Saints at cafod.org.uk/saints

Remind the children to share all that they heard and thought about with the people at home and to try to follow Jesus in all that they do in the coming week.

*Gospel passage taken from:
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