

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

### Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

**Song suggestions:** *Lay your hands* (347, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

**Welcome:** Today we hear about another person that Jesus healed. Let's think some more about healing and how to stay healthy together.

**Opening prayer:** Healing God, watch over all your children when they are sick. May we share generously with others so that all people around the world may have the chance to live happy and healthy lives. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

**Psalm:** Psalm 31:1-2, 5, 11

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

**Gospel:** Mark 1:40-45

A man suffering from a dreaded skin disease came to Jesus, knelt down, and begged him for help. "If you want to," he said, "you can make me clean."

Jesus was filled with pity, and reached out his hand and touched him. "I do want to," he answered. "Be clean!" At once the disease left the man, and he was clean. Then Jesus spoke sternly to him and sent him away at once, after saying to him, "Listen, don't tell anyone about this. But go straight to the priest and let him examine you; then in order to prove to everyone that you are cured, offer the sacrifice that Moses ordered."

But the man went away and began to spread the news everywhere. Indeed, he talked so much that Jesus could not go into a town publicly. Instead, he stayed out in lonely places, and people came to him from everywhere.

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

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

A man who has a skin problem comes to Jesus and asks to be healed. Jesus makes the man better but asks that he not tell anyone what has happened. Instead, he asks the man to visit the priest and give thanks to God for his cure.

How do you think this man felt when he realised that Jesus had healed him?

The man does not do as Jesus asks; instead, he goes round telling everyone the story. Why do you think he does this?

Perhaps it was because he was just so happy to be well again and wanted everyone to know about it.

We try to be like Jesus today in our world, by caring for others, and helping them when they are ill or finding things difficult. Can you tell me some ways that we can do that?

We talked last week about how Jesus healed people. And about how we can show people who are ill that we care for them. We also talked about how important it is that people are able to see a doctor or get the medicine that they need when they are ill.

Just as important is helping people to stay healthy.

There are lots of ways to keep healthy. Eating the right food and making sure we get enough exercise. Washing our hands, especially after going to the toilet and before eating.

Toma is a teacher in a school in Sierra Leone. Without a toilet in the school, the children had to go in the bushes instead. They risked getting sick every time they needed the toilet. Toma was worried about her students and started appealing for support.

With the help of CAFOD and a local organization, the school was able to build new toilets. Now, children are able to stay in school for longer and get the education that they need.

The local people that CAFOD works with around the world help others to stay healthy in lots of different ways, for example by making sure they have clean water to drink and wash with, or helping them to grow lots of fruit and vegetables so that they have enough to eat and a healthy diet.

What will you do this week to try and stay healthy? And to help others to stay healthy too?

How can you be more like Jesus and care for others who are ill or finding things difficult?

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

We try to be like Jesus today in our world, reaching out to those who need our help, and so we pray together:

We pray for all who are sick or who are struggling in some way: that they may find the help and support that they need. Lord, in your mercy...

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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 pray for people all around the world: that they may be healthy and happy and have a chance to change their lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may help other people and always share generously everything that we have. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** Christ Jesus, you always looked after people who were sick or in need. Help us to be more like you and to care for others here and around the world. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of ways that CAFOD works to help people to stay well and healthy. Ask them to also draw a way that they try to stay healthy in their own lives.

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about in today's liturgy with others and to think about how they can live healthy lives and help those who are sick or in need.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

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