

## Children's liturgy – Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

**Colour:** green

**Song suggestions** He's got the whole world in his hands (249, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*); Oh the word of my Lord (572, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*).

**Welcome:** Today we hear how Jesus valued children and thought they were important. Let's think about how important all children around the world are today.

**Opening prayer:** God of love, help us to recognise the importance of all children no matter where in the world they come from. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

**Psalm:** Psalm 53:3-6, 8 r. 6

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

**Gospel:** Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples left that place and went on through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where he was, because he was teaching his disciples: "The Son of Man will be handed over to those who will kill him. Three days later, however, he will rise to life."

But they did not understand what this teaching meant, and they were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and after going indoors Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you arguing about on the road?"

But they would not answer him, because on the road they had been arguing among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must place himself last of all and be the servant of all." Then he took a child and had him stand in front of them. He put his arms around him and said to them, "Whoever welcomes in my name one of these children, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not only me but also the one who sent me."

**Gospel reflection:** In today's reading Jesus shows the disciples how important children are. Can you remember what Jesus says?

Jesus says that anyone who welcomes a child, welcomes him. What do you think that means?

Jesus is in all of us. No matter who we are, where we come from, whether we are rich or poor, old or young. Even the youngest person is special and important because they are loved by God.

Children around the world are different. But each one of them is special and important.

Victoria is 10, she lives in South Sudan, a country in Africa. Her family is very poor but she is making the best of things. "I go to school and my friends are my blessing," she says. "Being in school makes me happy. My favourite sport is football. My favourite subjects are English and Science. Education gives me hope. With education I will be clever and will be independent when I'm older."

Jean-Pierre is 10, he lives in Peru, a country in Latin America. He has a cheeky grin and likes playing games, especially marbles. He loves to go to book club and read about super heroes. After school he helps take care of the special school garden. He wants to be a teacher.

What things do you have in common with Victoria and Jean-Pierre? What things do they do or like, that you do or like too?

What will you do this week to show that all people are important no matter who they are?

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

We know that God loves us all, just because we are who we are, and so we have the confidence to pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may see the importance of all their people, especially children, and make decisions based on what is best for everyone. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children throughout the world: that they may be valued and loved, and have the chance to build a brighter future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may welcome all people, no matter who they are, and do all that we can to help others to move forwards with hope. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** God of hope, we know that all people are important, because they are loved by you. Show us how to help others to see this too, so that the world can be a fairer place for all your children. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of children around the world. On the back they could write or draw what they will do in the coming week to help others, and to show that all children are important and loved by God.

Encourage the children to write a prayer for all children around the world, especially those who are living in poverty.

Make paper chain people with the children to represent the importance of all the children in the world. Encourage the children to decorate these to look like their friends and the children they have heard about in today's session. For some instructions on how to make paper people, visit [cafod.org.uk/familyprayers](http://cafod.org.uk/familyprayers) and click on "Global family".

Invite the children to tell the people at home all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a prayer, encourage them to say it together during the coming week. Remind them to do one thing in the coming week to help others and show that all people are important because they are loved by God.

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