

Children's liturgy – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Colour: green

Props: shoebox, coloured paper, pens and pencils

Song suggestions: Let there be love shared among us (358, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we hear about a woman who did something very special. And we think about how we can share from what we have, no matter how little that is.

Opening prayer: Generous God, help us to share what we have, so that all people may have enough. Amen.

First reading (optional): 1 Kings 17:10-16

Psalm: Psalm 145:7-10 r. 2

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

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

As he taught them, [Jesus] said, "Watch out for the teachers of the Law, who like to walk around in their long robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplace, who choose the reserved seats in the synagogues and the best places at feasts. They take advantage of widows and rob them of their homes, and then make a show of saying long prayers. Their punishment will be all the worse!"

As Jesus sat near the temple treasury, he watched the people as they dropped in their money. Many rich men dropped in a lot of money; then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny. He called his disciples together and said to them, "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all the others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had—she gave all she had to live on."

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

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

Jesus was watching people putting money in the collection box at the synagogue. He saw some rich people putting in lots of money. They he saw a widow, who was poor, putting in two small coins, the same as a penny.

What did Jesus say to the disciples about the woman?

Jesus said that she had put in more money than all the other people put together. The woman had given only two small coins and the others had given lots of money so what do you think Jesus meant?

The woman gave everything that she had. While the people who had lots of money just gave a little bit of what they had left over.

Which do you think Jesus would like us to be more like, the poor widow or the rich people? Why?

Jesus wants us to be generous and to share what we have with others. This is hard but we need to think – are we holding on to more than we need, like the rich people in Jesus' story? Could we give a bit more or have we shared what we have?

Jesus also shows us in this reading that everyone has something that they can give, even if at first it does not look like much.

We can give money, but we can also give other things too. Can you think what else we can give and share with others?

We can give our time – by listening to others, by being there for them when they are sad or worried. And we can give our talents – for example you could sing a song, or paint a picture, or make someone laugh.

Can you think of something that you can give and share with others?

Juliana lives in Peru in an area where there is a lot of poverty and pollution. There are not many safe places or parks for children to play.

Juliana is a member of a reading club that has been set up by a local organisation that CAFOD supports so that the children in her area have somewhere safe to go. Juliana loves reading, and she was the first girl in the reading club to read 100 books in a year! Wow!

Juliana has become a leader of the reading club and she encourages others to keep reading too. She even got her elder brother to stay at school and finish his education. He started a job to help earn money for his family, but Juliana argued that it would be better to keep on learning. Thanks to Juliana, and the organisers of the reading club, Juliana's brother stayed on and finished his final year of school.

Through the pandemic she really missed the club. It was hard for her to learn at home. But she tried her best and hopes to be able to achieve her dreams when she is older.

The gift of books and somewhere safe to read in peace, have made a huge difference to Juliana over the years, and have meant that she can share her passion for books and for learning with others.

What do you think the world would be like if everyone shared what they are able to?

What will you give to and share with others in the coming week?

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

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

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We are called to be generous and share what we have with each other, and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may be generous and fair, so that all their people have enough to live free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all members of our global family: that we may see that all people have something important to share, no matter how small or unimportant it seems at first. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be as generous as possible, not keeping more of anything than we need, so that everyone may have enough. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of light, help us to share generously and to see how important and special each person's gifts are. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to draw on the collection box what they will give to share in the coming week.

Make a collection box out of a shoebox with a slit in the lid. Give the children coin-shaped pieces of paper and invite them to write or draw what they will share with others in the coming week – it could be time or a talent or skill. When they have done this encourage them to come forward and put their “coins” in the collection box like the widow in the gospel story.

Remind the children to share all that they heard and thought about with the people at home and to be as generous as possible and share with others in the coming week.

*Gospel passage taken from:
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