

Children's liturgy – Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Welcome: Today we hear how about how we welcome Jesus when we welcome and care for one another. Let's think about how we can be welcoming people.

Song suggestion: The Summons (Will you come and follow me), Laudate 877

Opening prayer: God of all, you love us as your children. Help us to welcome all our sisters and brothers, rich and poor. Help us to encourage each other to have hope for the future. Amen.

First reading (optional): 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

Psalm: Psalm 89:2-3, 16-19 r 2

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

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus taught the twelve disciples:

“Those who love their father or mother more than me are not fit to be my disciples; those who love their son or daughter more than me are not fit to be my disciples. Those who do not take up their cross and follow in my steps are not fit to be my disciples. Those who try to gain their own life will lose it; but those who lose their life for my sake will gain it.

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes God's messenger because he is God's messenger, will share in his reward. And whoever welcomes a good man because he is good, will share in his reward. You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is my follower, will certainly receive a reward.”

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

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

Jesus warns the disciples that if they follow him, there might be people who disagree with them, who don't understand what they're doing. Those people might even be in their own family.

The disciples need to be brave and to make difficult decisions to stand up for what they believe in.

We all need this courage to love one another as God asks us to and to do what is right even when others disagree.

Jesus asks us to welcome each other. He says anyone who welcomes you, welcomes Jesus himself. What do you think this means?

Jesus lives in all our hearts, and we are all God's children. So we are called to treat each person we meet as if they are Jesus.

Have you ever been made to feel welcome? Perhaps you went to a friend's house or a family member's house, and they gave you a nice cold drink. Or perhaps you made a new friend on your first day at school.

How does it feel to be made welcome?

Jesus says when we welcome and love each other, we welcome and love God. He wants us to love everyone because we are all God's children.

There are some people who have to leave their homes because of war, poverty or a natural disaster like floods or an earthquake. Their homes might be destroyed or no longer be safe to live in. Or they might need to move so that they have a better chance of earning money for their family. Some of these people move to a different part of the country. Some move to a neighbouring country. And some travel long distances across the world to find a new place of safety and welcome.

How do you think you would feel if you had to leave your home and most of your belongings behind?

How could we make people who are joining our parish, or our school, or our local community feel welcome?

Welcoming others doesn't have to be complicated – Jesus says even giving a drink of cold water to someone is worthy of a reward.

How will you be welcoming to 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.*

We know that all people are loved by God and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that God may help us to follow Jesus' example of love and welcome for all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all those who have had to leave their homes: that they may find a place of safety and welcome to rebuild once more. Lord, in your mercy...

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

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We pray for our parish, our family and friends: that God may encourage us to see that all people are special and treat all people with welcome and love. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of all that is good, move us to share the power of your love and open our hearts in welcome to one another. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will be welcoming to others in the coming week.

Remind the children to share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with the people at home.

Find more activities for children at cafod.org.uk/familyprayers

*Gospel passage taken from:

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

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