

Children's liturgy –Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: Sing of the Lord's goodness (713, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear how some people tried to trick Jesus. But he was too clever for them. Let's find out what happened and what message Jesus has for us.

Opening prayer: God of all, you call us to love you and to care for one another. May we never forget what you ask of us. Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Psalms: Psalm 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v.7

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

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went off and made a plan to trap Jesus with questions. Then they sent to him some of their disciples and some members of Herod's party. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you tell the truth. You teach the truth about God's will for people, without worrying about what others think, because you pay no attention to anyone's status. Tell us, then, what do you think? Is it against our Law to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, or not?"

Jesus, however, was aware of their evil plan, and so he said, "You hypocrites! Why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin for paying the tax!"

They brought him the coin, and he asked them, "Whose face and name are these?"

"The Emperor's," they answered.

So Jesus said to them, "Well, then, pay the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor, and pay God what belongs to God."

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

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

The Pharisees didn't like Jesus and so they tried to find a way to trick him. What did they ask him?

At the time the Romans ruled the area where Jesus lived. The people did not like the Romans and they did not want to have to pay money to them. But the Pharisees knew that if Jesus said this out loud, he would get into trouble.

So the Pharisees asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor.

What answer did Jesus give the Pharisees?

Jesus told the Pharisees to “pay the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor – and God what belongs to God.”

Taxes are money that is paid to a ruler, leader or government of a country. The money is to pay them, but should also be used to care for other people and make sure that they have the things that they need – paying for things like schools, hospitals, roads, benefits for when someone cannot work etc.

So in this story, when he tells them to “pay the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor – and God what belongs to God,” Jesus is reminding us that we have two main responsibilities. One is to love God and to try to live our lives the way God wants us to.

The other responsibility is to care for each other and to make sure that everyone gets their fair share of the good things that God has given us.

God has given us a world filled with good things. While some of us have all that we could wish for, others of us do not have a house to live in, enough food to eat, clean water to drink.

Do you think this is fair? Why not?

We can help each other and try to make sure that all people around the world have their fair share of the things that God has given us. We can all play our part to make the world a fairer place.

CAFOD works with people around the world, supporting them as they try to make the world a fairer place. For example in Brazil, helping people in poor farming communities learn how to grow more nutritious food, in an environmentally-friendly way. The farmers are also now working together to get their produce to market to sell, so that they can earn more money.

How can we share what we have so that everyone has their fair share of what God has given us?

What will you do this week to show that you love God and are trying to live your life the way God wants? What will you do this week to show that you care for others, both here and around the world?

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

We know that God is always ready to listen to us and so we pray:

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

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We pray for world leaders: that they may make sure all people have their fair share of the gifts that God has given us. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all members of our global family: that together we may do all that we can to share fairly and bring an end to poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may do our best to live the way God wants us to and share all that we have so everyone has enough. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, be with us as we try to care for one another, help one another, share with one another and work together to make the world a fairer place for everyone to live. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying optional illustration of people caring for others and to write or draw on the back what they will do in the coming week to care for and share with others.

Encourage the children to imagine that they are the Emperor (or the Chancellor). What would they spend the tax money they collect on? How could they use the taxes that they collect to help others and make sure everyone has their fair share?

Remind the children to share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with their grown ups. Invite the children to try and do what they can in the coming week to help each other and to share with people both here and around the world.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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