

Children's liturgy – Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: purple

Props: Some Fairtrade items e.g. bananas, coffee, biscuits, sugar, chocolate

Song suggestions: *God's spirit is in my heart* (864, Laudate)
A new commandment (920, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus gets angry when he sees something that he does not think is right or fair. When we look at the world, we can see lots of things that are not fair. Let's think a bit today about how we can change this.

Opening prayer: God of justice, help us to stand up for what we believe in as we try to make the world a fairer place for everyone. Amen.

First reading (optional): Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm: Psalm 18:8-11, R. John 6:68

Gospel acclamation: *all say or sing the acclamation. For Lent we use an acclamation that doesn't use the word 'Alleluia'. We suggest: Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.*

Gospel: John 2:13-25

It was almost time for the Passover Festival, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. There in the Temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons, and also the moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he made a whip from cords and drove all the animals out of the Temple, both the sheep and the cattle; he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins; and he ordered those who sold the pigeons, "Take them out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that the scripture says, "My devotion to your house, O God, burns in me like a fire."

The Jewish authorities came back at him with a question, "What miracle can you perform to show us that you have the right to do this?"

Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple, and in three days I will build it again."

"Are you going to build it again in three days?" they asked him. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple!"

But the temple Jesus was speaking about was his body. So when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and what Jesus had said.

While Jesus was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in him as they saw the miracles he performed. But Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew them all. There was no need for anyone to tell him about them, because he himself knew what was in their hearts.

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from that reading?

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem for a feast called Passover and went to the Temple. There he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, which the people used as offerings to God. There were also many money-changers, so that pilgrims from different lands could change their money and buy the offerings.

Why do you think that seeing all this made Jesus angry?

The Temple was where people went to say prayers, but some people were buying and selling things instead. They were trying to make money from people's faith in God. They stopped the Temple being a quiet place where people could talk to God, and turned it into a market.

Jesus drove the traders all out of the Temple. How do you think all the people felt when they saw this?

Jesus was standing up for what he believed in. He saw something that he did not think was fair or right and so he acted to change the situation.

Can you think of some things that you have seen that are unfair or which are not right?

For example have you seen people being unkind to others or not treating other people as they should? What did you do about it?

Do you think it is fair that some people work very hard but do not earn enough money for the things that they need? Or that some people do not have enough food to eat?

What do you do when you see something that you know is wrong or unfair? What can you do to change the things in the world that are unfair?

CAFOD is an organisation that works to try and make the world a fairer place for everyone, especially people who are poor around the world.

One way of doing this is by buying Fairtrade goods. (*Show the children the Fairtrade items if you have them.*) Sometimes the people who make or grow the things we buy don't earn enough money to live on or buy food for their families. When we buy Fairtrade tea or coffee or bananas or chocolate we know that the people who grew and produced these things are being paid a fair wage and are able to make enough money to feed their families.

What will you do this week to make the world a fairer place and how will you stand up for what you believe in?

Intercessions: It can be hard to stand up for what we believe in and so we pray together for God's help:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be strong in standing up for what it believes and may help to build a fairer world. Lord, in your mercy...

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

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We pray for all people who grow the food we eat around the world: that they may get a fair price for all their hard work. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may follow Jesus's example and never be afraid to stand up for what is right and fair. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Christ Jesus, show us how to be brave enough to stand up for what is right and fair. Give us the courage to change the things we know are wrong and help us to make the world a fairer place together with our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and write or draw on the back what they will do to try to make the world a fairer place over the next week.

Encourage the children to tell their family all that that they have heard and thought about during the session. See more Fairtrade activities for children at cafod.org.uk/primary/fairtrade

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