

## Children's liturgy – Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

### Preparing for worship

**Colour:** green

**Props:** paper template of a figure, colouring pencils, stapler or tape

**Song suggestions:** Here I am, Lord (865, Laudate)

When I needed a neighbour (888, Laudate)

Take my hands (608, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today Jesus gives us a challenge to see everyone around us as our brother or sister. We think about how we can take on that challenge and love others as our family.

**Opening prayer:** Christ Jesus, you ask us to see everyone around us as our brother or sister. Help us to build a global family where everyone is welcomed and loved. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Genesis 3:9-15

**Psalm:** Psalm 129 r.7

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

**Gospel:** Mark 3:20-35

Jesus went home. Again such a large crowd gathered that Jesus and his disciples had no time to eat. When his family heard about it, they set out to take charge of him, because people were saying, "He's gone mad!"

Some teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem were saying, "He has Beelzebul in him! It is the chief of the demons who gives him the power to drive them out."

So Jesus called them to him and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a country divides itself into groups which fight each other, that country will fall apart. If a family divides itself into groups which fight each other, that family will fall apart. So if Satan's kingdom divides into groups, it cannot last, but will fall apart and come to an end.

"No one can break into a strong man's house and take away his belongings unless he first ties up the strong man; then he can plunder his house.

"I assure you that people can be forgiven all their sins and all the evil things they may say. But whoever says evil things against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, because he has committed an eternal sin." (Jesus said this because some people were saying, "He has an evil spirit in him.")

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside the house and sent in a message, asking for him. A crowd was sitting round Jesus, and they said to him, "Look, your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, and they want you."

Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" He looked at the people sitting round him and said, "Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does what God wants him to do is my brother, my sister, my mother."

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

**Gospel reflection:** In today's gospel some people challenge Jesus about his ministry. Why do you think that is?

What do you remember from today's gospel?

Jesus compares the people around him to his own family. Why do you think he did this? Why would he say that those listening to him are like his own mother and brothers?

Jesus says that whoever does what God wants them to do is a part of his family. We are all brothers and sisters with Christ.

When we come to Mass we see that we are all different but we all belong. As followers of Jesus we try to see everyone as family.

Can you think of a time when your parish has come together as a family? Perhaps to celebrate together? Or to say thank you or goodbye to an important member of the parish?

When we see that there are people who need help across the world, this gospel reminds us that they are family too. And that means we should do our best to listen to them and to help them in difficult times.

We can care for others, even if they live far away, just the same as if they were members of our own family. As if they are our brothers and sisters.

Jesus also talks today about how bad it is when people are fighting against each other. He says that a country or a family where there is fighting will fall apart.

A year of war in Sudan has forced millions of people to flee their homes. Now the situation is getting worse.

People are running out of food, water and medicine and many families continue to flee their homes to escape the fighting.

More than 25 million Sudanese people need immediate emergency help. CAFOD is working through the Church network Caritas and other local partners to provide food packages and money to families so that they can buy the things that they need. They are also repairing the water pipelines that have been damaged by the fighting, and building new ones, to help clean water reach those who need it.

What do you think you could do to care for people in Sudan or other parts of the world where there is war or poverty and people need some help?

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For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

We can raise money to help CAFOD with their work. We can pray for our brothers and sisters and for peace. We can call on world leaders to work for peace in our world.

How will you show that you care for your brothers and sisters around the world this week?

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

We pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may encourage all people to care for the troubles of others, to share and to stand up for what is right. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that they may do all that they can to make sure that all people have the freedom to live in their own homes, without fear of war. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may do what we can to keep the lives of others in mind, to work for peace and to offer help when we can. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** Christ Jesus, you tell us that we are all part of your family. Help us to care for others so that everyone may live together in peace.

### **Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and on the back to write or draw how they will care for people in their global family this week.

Encourage the children to draw themselves within the template figures. Cut them out and staple or tape the hands together in a circle. Talk about how we come together in friendship when we offer each other the Sign of Peace during the Mass.

Invite the children to tell the people at home all that they have heard and thought about today. When they do things together as a family, encourage them to remember that we are also all part of God's family. Remind them to think about ways they can welcome and include others in the coming week.

\*Gospel passage taken from:  
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