

Children's liturgy – Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Colour: Green

Song suggestions: Whatsoever you do (926, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we are going to hear how special and important children were to Jesus. Let's think some more about how important all children around the world are now.

Opening prayer: Loving God, your Son Jesus shows us that all people, including little children, are important and loved by you. Help us to follow his example and to respect and care for all people around the world. Amen.

First reading (optional): Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm: Psalm 127 r. 5

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

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from that reading?

People were bringing their children to Jesus for his blessing, but the disciples tried to stop them. Why do you think they did this?

Perhaps they thought the children would bother Jesus, that he would find them too loud or lively. Or maybe the disciples were worried that Jesus was tired or hungry and that it was time for him to rest.

How did Jesus feel when he noticed what the disciples were doing? What did he say?

Jesus is angry and tells the disciples to let the children come to him. He says that the kingdom of God belongs to children like these. He says that they have a special way of looking at the world and of understanding things, which adults can learn from.

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus thinks all children are important and that he wanted to listen to them?

Jesus welcomed and blessed the children who came to see him. He loves us all. No matter where in the world we live. Whether we are old or young, big or small, rich or poor.

Last week we heard all about Luana who lives with her grandmother in Brazil, in the Amazon rainforest, and who helps take care of nature where she lives.

Find out more about Luana by sharing the primary schools Family Fast Day film available at: cafod.org.uk/primary/harvest

She says, "To save the Amazon we have to plant trees quite a lot because there are many, many people who are...cutting the trees down."

CAFOD works with local experts who helped Luana and her community to replant crops and the forest around them after a fire. They also help the community to use the law to prove that they have the right to live in the forest.

In today's gospel, Jesus welcomes the children and shows the disciples how important they are. We are also called to care for children everywhere whenever we can, because we are all brothers and sisters.

All around the world, communities who work hard to protect the environment and who have to deal with climate change need our help. Raising money for CAFOD is one way that we can do this.

What will you do this week to show your love for God's children 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 Jesus welcomed children and so we have the courage to pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a place of welcome and support for all people, especially those who are poor. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for children throughout the world: that they may have the chance to grow and learn and live happy lives with hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy....

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be filled with love for all God's children. May God lead us to care for one another and for the world we live in. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of love, you teach us to see that the world is good. Help us to care for creation and to love our sisters and brothers. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Share the accompanying illustration with the children. It shows children who are all Going Green to Brighten Up the world. How many different shades of green could the group use to colour in this picture? Encourage the children to draw a picture on the back of the children being welcomed by Jesus, to remind them that all children are special and loved by God. Or you could invite them to write or draw what they will do to Go Green or to care for God's children around the world in the coming week.

For more activities and resources to help the children to Go Green and Brighten Up the world go to cafod.org.uk/primary/harvest

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

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Remind the children to share all that they heard and thought about with the people at home during the week. Remind them how special and loved they are by God, whose Son Jesus welcomed the little children. Invite them to pray for children everywhere this week and to do what they can to care for others at home, at school and around the world.

*Gospel passage taken from:
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