

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

Colour: White

Props: Fact sheets, with question and answers.

Song suggestions: Go, tell everyone (227, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)
The Servant King (187, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: We do not always understand things straight away, we need someone to teach us and to explain to us all the different things that we see in the world. Jesus teaches his disciples in today's gospel story. Let's think about how we learn today.

Opening prayer: Loving God, we give thanks for our school, our friends and our teachers, who help us when we don't understand. We pray that all children may have the chance to go to school to learn the skills that they need for the future. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Psalm: Ps 4:2, 4, 7, 9 r. 7

Gospel acclamation: Stand and sing the acclamation together, for eg: 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Alleluia' (Zimbabwe), Abraham Maraire Publications, WCC & GIA.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread.

While the two were telling them this, suddenly the Lord himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were terrified, thinking that they were seeing a ghost. But he said to them, "Why are you alarmed? Why are these doubts coming up in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet, and see that it is I myself. Feel me, and you will know, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, as you can see I have."

He said this and showed them his hands and his feet. They still could not believe, they were so full of joy and wonder; so he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of cooked fish, which he took and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are the very things I told you about while I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and the Psalms had to come true."

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.
(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 disciples were talking to each other when suddenly Jesus appeared amongst them.

They thought they had seen a ghost! How would you feel?

Jesus explained to his friends all that it said in the Scriptures about him. The disciples then understood that Jesus had risen from the dead and was the Son of God. They truly believed in him, and they were happy.

Learning and understanding is very important. Who helps you to learn? Who do you ask when you don't understand something?

Teachers at school help us to learn and understand the world around us. But not all children around the world have the same chance to learn.

Their parents might not have enough money for them to go to school. There might not be a school near to them. Or they might have had to leave their homes because of fighting. Or there might be another reason why children can't learn as well as they would like.

Veronica lives with her family in Kenya. She loves school. But her family can't afford electricity, so Veronica used a paraffin lamp to study at home. The burning oil made her cough and so she found it hard to do her homework.

How do you think you would feel if you had no electricity at home? What would you do if you didn't have electric lights to help you see to read and draw when it is dark?

Now Veronica has new hope, because solar panels have been fitted at school. These special panels turn the power of the sun into electricity, bringing light to the classroom.

Veronica also has a solar lamp at home. She puts it on the roof in the sun during the day to charge up and then it is ready to light up her homework at night.

She says: "Now that we have the solar panels at school, I'll be able to do the extra school work I need to. School empowers me to achieve my plans for the future."

How can we help others to learn in the coming week?

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

All children should have the chance to go to school and to learn. Let us think about this as we pray together:

We pray for children in other parts of the world: that they may have the chance to go to school and learn the things that they need for the future. Lord, hear us...

We pray for our teachers and parents: that they may always make time to explain things to us when we do not understand. Lord, hear us...

We pray for the work of CAFOD: that it may continue to help families to send their children to school and have their dreams come true. Lord, hear us...

Closing prayer: God our teacher, help us understand your great love for us, and to share that love with our brothers and sisters throughout the world, as we work to make the world a better and fairer place. Amen.

Activity suggestions:

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write on the back one thing that they have learnt today or why they think it is important for all children to have the chance to go to school.

Invite the children to take part in a quiz. You could prepare simple fact sheets with questions about children's lives from around the world, with answers below (see examples). Ask the children to get into pairs and tell each other the question, and then the answer. Point out they have learnt something new today. Ask them how it feels to have learnt something new.

For example:

Q. What is a house called in a Sudanese village?

A. A tukul.

Q. What is the money called in Bangladesh?

A. Taka.

Q. In Rwanda the people speak kinyawanda. How do you say the number 3 in kinyawanda?

A. Gatatu (*GahTahToo*).

You can find more information about children around the world in the resources at cafod.org.uk/primary

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have learnt and thought about today. See if they can count how many new things they learn this week. Ask them to think about they can help other people to learn: at home, at school and in poorer countries around the world.

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