

Children's liturgy – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: Wait for the Lord (88, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells us a story about how it is important to be ready and prepared for whatever will happen. Let's think a bit about being prepared today.

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, we pray that we may always be ready to help others, to be kind and loving and to follow you. Amen.

First reading (optional): Wisdom 6:12-16

Psalm: Psalm 62:2-8. R. v.2

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

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said: "At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there were ten young women who took their oil lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and the other five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any extra oil with them, while the wise ones took containers full of oil for their lamps. The bridegroom was late in coming, so the women began to nod and fall asleep.

"It was already midnight when the cry rang out, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come and meet him!' The ten women woke up and trimmed their lamps. Then the foolish ones said to the wise ones, 'Let us have some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' 'No, indeed,' the wise ones answered, 'there is not enough for you and for us. Go to the shop and buy some for yourselves.' So the foolish women went off to buy some oil; and while they were gone, the bridegroom arrived. The five who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was closed.

"Later the other women arrived. 'Sir, sir! Let us in!' they cried out. 'Certainly not! I don't know you,' the bridegroom answered."

And Jesus concluded, "Be on your guard, then, because you do not know the day or the hour."

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

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

Jesus tells a story about ten women who are waiting at a wedding for the bridegroom to arrive. It is dark and so they all have lamps with them to light the way. But what did five of them have that the other five didn't?

Five of them were sensible and took extra oil with them, so that if the bridegroom was late they would still be able to light his way. They were prepared. What happened next?

The bridegroom was very late. It was after midnight before the women were asked to go out and meet him and five of them no longer had enough oil for their lamps. They were not prepared and ended up being left outside the wedding. How do you think they felt about being left outside?

Sometimes things happen that we don't expect and we realise that we are not ready for them. Can you think of a time when this has happened to you? What happened? How did you feel?

Can you think of a time when you were ready for something? When you were well prepared? What happened? How did you feel?

CAFOD works through local experts around the world to help people be more prepared for what might happen.

For example, in Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), local experts, supported by CAFOD have helped people prepare so that they know what to do if a volcano erupts.

They have helped the teachers at Karisimbi Primary school to plan a safe place for everyone in the school to go to if the volcano erupts, and they have made sure that even the youngest children know the way to get there. They practice with "evacuation drills" a bit like you might do a "fire drill" in your school. They have also taught the children how to look after each other if they get hurt.

Christian is 11. During an evacuation drill at his school, he heard the volcano warning sirens, and rushed to collect his little brother. They listened carefully to what the headteacher told them, then walked to the safe place. Christian carried his little brother when he got tired.

So, if there was ever a real volcano eruption Christian and his brother would know what to do. Being prepared in this situation can help save lives.

Jesus also asks us to be ready and prepared to be kind and loving to others whenever we have the chance. Are you ready to try and help people when they need some support?

How do you think you can show you are ready to help others? (Some ideas to help the children if they need: treating others as we would wish to be treated, sharing, trying to make the world a fairer place).

Let's try our best to be prepared in this coming week to be loving, kind and generous. Let's do our best to be ready to help others at home, at school, in the local community and around the world.

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

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

Let's pray together:

We pray for all people around the world who face natural disasters: that they may be able to prepare as best they can to protect themselves. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the work of CAFOD: that it may continue to help people be prepared and to change their lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be ready to follow Jesus and treat others as we would wish to be treated. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of all, help us to be ready to share what we have, to treat others as we would wish to be treated and to try to make the world a fairer place. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying optional illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will be ready to help others in the coming week.

Encourage the children to write a prayer for all people who face natural disasters around the world, whether that's volcanoes, earthquakes, floods or droughts – that they are able to prepare as best they can, and protect themselves, their homes and their land.

Invite the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with others at home. Remind them to “be prepared” in the coming week – to do all that they can to be ready to help others. If they have written a prayer, encourage them to say it together at home or at school during the coming week.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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