

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Love each other

#### INTRODUCTION

Jesus loves each one of us so much, that he died on the cross so that we could share eternal life with him. He asks us to be generous and to share this love with all of mankind.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the Candles and read this prayer:

The candle flame is warm and bright  
it changes darkness into light.

We feel its warmth and see its glow,  
and when we look at it we know,  
the light of Christ is burning bright,  
for we are children of the light.

#### SORRY

After a few moments of quiet reflection ask the children to sing Sorry Song 1

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4:  
*Praise the Lord*

#### GOSPEL (cf John 15:9-17)

One day Jesus said to his disciples: 'I love you just as my Father loves me. If you do as I ask then you will always be close to me, and my Father will love you too. I want you to love each other in the same way as I have loved you. I have chosen you to be my friends, and am sending you out to share this love with the rest of the world.'

#### DISCUSSION

What did Jesus ask his disciples to do? – To love one another as he had loved them. Jesus reminded his disciples many times that the greatest commandments were to love God and to love each other.

What does it mean to love another person? – To love someone else means that you care about another person, about their happiness and the things which happen to them. You want only the best for them, and for them to grow in love and goodness.

Jesus's love for us was so great that he did an extraordinary thing for us. What did he do? – 'Greater love has no man, than to give up his life for others.' Jesus loved us so much that he was ready to die so that we could live and share new

life with him in heaven. Sometimes in times of disaster, people behave heroically by saving the lives of others instead of their own. Their love for another person is so great that they put that person's needs before their own.

Jesus asked us to share his love with each other. In what ways can we do this?

We can put our love into action:

- by spending some time with someone who is lonely.
- by offering help to someone who needs it.
- by sharing our happiness with others.

(Encourage the children to make their own suggestions)

We can put our love into words:

- by telling the members of our family how much we love them.
- by praying for the needs of other people.
- by praising and thanking God for all that we have.

Jesus lives inside each one of us so whatever we say or do to each other, we say or do it to him. We can make everything we do a little act of love for God.

#### ACTIVITY

Make a 'love is . . .' booklet for each child with several blank pages for their own drawings and ideas. Either use the illustration here for the cover, or the children can design their own.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
our hearts are brimming over with your love.  
Help us to be generous  
and always ready to share this love  
with everyone we meet.