

# Thirty-second Sunday of the Year

## The generous woman

### INTRODUCTION

Today's Gospel story teaches us that it is not how much we give to others that is important, but how we give it and what is in our hearts at that moment.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candle Song together.

### SORRY

Ask one of the children to choose a sorry colour for everyone to read aloud.

### GLORIA

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(All) Alleluia, alleluia.

(Reader) Happy are the poor, because they will see the Kingdom of God.

(All) Alleluia.

### GOSPEL (cf Mark 12:41-44)

When Jesus was in the Temple one day, he watched the people putting their money in a collection box as their offering. Many of the wealthy Jews gave large amounts of money. Then a poor old woman came into the Temple, and dropped two small coins, worth as little as one pence, into the box. Seeing this, Jesus turned to his disciples and said, 'This old woman has given more than any of the others! They gave money that they could spare, but she has given *all* the money that she had.'

### DISCUSSION

Do you mind sharing what you have with other people? – It is easy to share when we have plenty, because we do not really miss what we have given away. It is much harder to give to others, when we have very little ourselves.

Imagine you have a large bag of sweets, and were asked to share it with everyone in this room. Would you find it hard to do? – Probably not, because there would be enough to give everyone a sweet, and still have plenty left.

Now imagine you had just one of your favourite sweets! How easy do you think it would be to give that precious sweet away to someone else?

What did Jesus say about the rich men? – The

rich men had plenty of money, and like the large bag of sweets, it made little difference to them if they gave lots of it away.

The poor old woman only gave two small coins, and yet Jesus said that she had given the most. Why? – The old woman gave very little, but it was *all* she had, so she had given everything. She trusted in God to provide her with whatever she needed.

What message does today's Gospel have for us? – Today's Gospel teaches us about giving and sharing. It is not *how much* we give that is important, but *how* we give it, and what is in our hearts when we share something. Giving and sharing with a loving and sincere heart is what really matters to God.

What can you give and share with other people? (Encourage the children to suggest their own ideas.)

- your love
- your time
- your toys and possessions
- your happiness
- your friendship

### ACTIVITY

Photocopy this picture showing the old widow putting all that she had into the offerings box. Encourage the children to draw Jesus and some rich men as part of the scene.

### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord,  
teach us how to share  
and never to be greedy,  
because everything that we have  
comes from you.