

Children's liturgy – Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Green

Props: Coloured pens and pencils.

Song suggestions:

Breathe on me, Breath of God (98, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*)

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus raises a young man from the dead and comforts the widowed mother with this miracle. Let's think about what this story shows us about relationships.

Opening prayer: All-powerful God, help us to find comfort in you when people we love have died and gone to you and show us how to comfort others who are sad. Amen.

First reading (optional): Kings 17:17-24

Psalm: Psalm 29:2, 4-6, 11-13. R. v.2

Gospel acclamation: everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. Suggestions include: 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Alleluia' (Zimbabwe), Abraham Maraire Publications, WCC & GIA; 'Celtic Alleluia' (traditional); 'Alleluia! Raise the Gospel' from 'Go Before Us', Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications.

Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

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

Jesus and the disciples visit the town of Nain and see that a funeral procession is happening - a widow is mourning the death of her only son.

Jesus responds with compassion - he goes to the widow and tells her not to cry.

Why do you think that Jesus says this?

Then Jesus touches the coffin and tells the dead young man to get up. And the young man begins to talk and move. What do you think he might have said to Jesus?

Jesus then gives the son to his mother - what do you think they felt and said?

The crowd are amazed at what they have just seen - a miracle. A miracle is something that does not usually happen, but with faith in God, is made possible. What do you think the crowd said to each other about this extraordinary event?

Then the crowd praised God and the news spread over all Judea and the surrounding countryside. Why do you think that the crowd were so keen to tell everyone what they had just seen?

Ten year old Areej lives in Gaza, an area where there has been lots of fighting. Areej's dad was killed in the war. How do you think this makes her feel?

There is a photo of Areej in the accompanying photo PowerPoint, which you can share with the children.

Areej says, "My dad was the only source of strength for me. He used to protect me. I won't forget his kindness. At night when I am asleep I dream and in my dreams he is alive. But sadly when I wake up I don't find him here."

CAFOD's partner in Gaza is running drama and art workshops to help children like Areej get over what has happened during the war.

Areej says, "I have spent many days feeling sad. I'm not as sad now."

Why do you think that Areej is not as sad anymore?

What does the reading call us to do for not only our own loved ones who have died but also children like Areej?

We cannot bring people back from the dead like Jesus did, but we can try to comfort those who are sad, so that they know that they are not alone, and that there are people who care for them.

How do you think you can help those who have a family member or friend who has died? What will you do this week?

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

We know that when we pray to God we are not alone, and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church: that it may bring comfort to those whose loved ones have died. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters in every country whose family members have died because of war: that they may know that they are not alone and their stories are heard by us. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends, especially those who look after those who are sad: that they may continue this support with compassion and friendship. Lord in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of people throughout all the ages, you created us in your own image and you loved us into being. May those whose loved ones have died find comfort in you, and bless those who have returned to you through their death. Amen

Activity suggestions:

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a mother and her son. On the back ask the children to write or draw how they can comfort people who are sad, especially those who have a friend or family member who has died. Or to write the name of or draw a person who means a lot to them who has died and to give thanks to God for the life of this person.

Ask the children to make a list of the people, places and things that are important to them. If they want to, they can draw these in one picture as well. Then in silence, ask the children to give thanks for this list and/or picture.

Ask the children to think about one or two people that they can show their love for this week and to share how they will do this.

Ask the children to write a prayer for peace throughout the world.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to do all that they can to comfort and support those who are sad because a loved one has died. Ask them to say a prayer for all children who live in a place where there is violence or war, and to remember in prayer their own family members who have died.