

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

The good Samaritan

INTRODUCTION

If someone stumbled and fell in the street would you help them, or feel embarrassed and walk on by? Jesus tells us that we must be ready to help whoever needs us, because everyone is our neighbour.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and then read: (*cf Matthew 5:16-17*)

Jesus said: 'Let your goodness shine out like a light in the darkness, so that through you, the love of our heavenly Father will touch the lives of others.'

SORRY

After a few moments of quiet contemplation and prayer sing Sorry Song 1.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.'
Alleluia.

GOSPEL (*cf Luke 10:29-37*)

A man once said to Jesus, 'I know that I should love God with all my heart, and love my neighbour too. But who is my neighbour?'

Then Jesus told him this story: 'One day a man was travelling from Jericho to Jerusalem, when a gang of robbers attacked him. They beat him up, and after stealing everything he had, they left him lying injured by the roadside. A short time later one of the temple priests passed that way, but he crossed the road and walked on by. Soon, another traveller came, but he too passed on by. Then a Samaritan happened to pass, and when he saw the injured man he took pity on him. He bandaged his wounds, and carried him on horseback to a nearby inn. There he cared for him and when the time came to leave, he left the innkeeper enough money to pay for the man's room until he was better.' Jesus then asked the man, 'Which man in the story was a good neighbour?'

'The one who helped the wounded traveller', he answered. 'Go then and do the same for anyone who needs your help,' said Jesus.

DISCUSSION

This story is often called the 'good Samaritan'. What was a Samaritan?

A Samaritan was someone who came from a region of Palestine called Samaria. The Samaritans and the Jews had been enemies since Old Testament times. The good Samaritan did not worry about the injured man's religion or race, instead he saw someone who needed his help, and was filled with a sense of love and pity. Even today when someone does a good deed for another person, we often call them a 'good Samaritan.'

What did the other men do when they saw the injured traveller? – They crossed the road and walked on by. They were not prepared to put themselves to any trouble, and ignored the needs of the man lying on the roadside. Today, too many people are in a hurry, and are unwilling to stop and offer help to someone who needs it.

(Perhaps you or the children have had such an experience?)

From the story which Jesus told, who is our neighbour? – Our neighbour is whoever we meet, whatever their race, religion or colour might be. When a fellow human being is suffering, or needs our help, then we should show the same loving concern and compassion as the good Samaritan.

Jesus told the man to go away and be a good Samaritan. How can we do the same? – By treating everyone with kindness and love, whether it is at school, at home or when playing with friends. By loving one another as we love ourselves then we will please our heavenly Father.

ACTIVITY

Either photocopy the story of the good Samaritan for each child, or copy each picture onto a separate sheet of paper to be coloured and displayed.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord,
today we pray for anyone
who needs a good Samaritan;
give each of us the courage
to stop and help
when our neighbour needs us.