

## Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

### Make time to listen

#### INTRODUCTION

Martha and Mary lived in Bethany, a small village near Jerusalem. They were close friends of Jesus, who often came to visit them when he passed that way.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

As the candles are lit, the children listen to this reading by the prophet Isaiah (*cf Isaiah 60:1-3*):

The glory of God is shining on you! You will always have God's light to chase away the darkness, so others will look at you and see God's love shining out!

We ask Jesus to be a light in our lives as we sing the Candle Song together.

#### SORRY

Close your eyes and listen carefully to the words of this prayer:

God our Father,

you sent your son Jesus

because you love us so much.

When we do something that makes you sad,

help us to remember your love,

to ask for your forgiveness,

and to make a fresh start.

Say together: Our Father . . .

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5:  
*We have come to hear you, Lord.*

#### GOSPEL (*cf Luke 10:38-42*)

One day Jesus and his disciples came to the village called Bethany where his friends Martha and Mary lived. They welcomed Jesus and his followers and invited them to stay for a meal.

While Martha busied herself preparing and serving the food, her sister Mary sat calmly beside Jesus and listened to him talking. Martha worked hard, and all the while Mary sat and listened to Jesus. Finally Martha got upset and said to Jesus, 'Lord must I do all this work on my own? Tell Mary to come and help me!'

'Martha, Martha,' Jesus said. 'Do not let these things upset you, they are not important. Mary has chosen to listen to me and that is the most important thing of all.'

#### DISCUSSION

Martha was very busy and had a lot to do. What do you imagine she had to do?

Jesus and his disciples had been invited to stay for a meal, so Martha had to prepare a lot of food. The travellers were thirsty after their journey, and Martha had to organise drinks for everyone.

What did Mary do while Martha was so busy?

Mary sat down beside Jesus and simply listened to his words.

How did Martha feel about this?

Martha became angry with Mary, perhaps because she thought that she was being lazy leaving her to do all the work. Martha may also have felt a little jealous of her sister, because she too wanted to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to him.

What did Jesus say when Martha complained?

Jesus told Martha that Mary had chosen to do the right thing. He was grateful for all the work that Martha had done for them, but what really made him happy was making time to listen to the word of God; nothing was more important!

What does this story teach us?

We all lead hectic and busy lives, and sometimes we forget what is really important: to make time for Jesus in our lives and to listen as he speaks to us.

#### ACTIVITY

Ask each child to draw a picture of themselves listening to God's word at Church, or making time for Jesus as they say their prayers.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we pray  
that we will always make you welcome  
and be ready to spend time  
listening to the word of God.