

Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year

Don't give up

INTRODUCTION

Jesus told a parable to show that we shouldn't become disheartened but should keep on asking for what we want because God will hear and answer our prayers.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Make your thoughts only kind ones,
and others will see your goodness
in the things that you do.

Hold your head high
and keep walking towards the light,
and you will never
lose your way.

SORRY

Jesus taught us that God will forgive us, just as we are ready to forgive others. One day Jesus told this story (cf *Matthew 18:23-35*):

There was once a servant who owed his master lots of money. His master took pity on him and cancelled all his debts. Now the servant had a friend who owed him a small amount of money which he could not pay, so he had him thrown into jail. When his master heard this he sent for his unforgiving servant. 'Could you not forgive others as I forgave you?' he asked. Then he threw him into jail until he could repay all that he owed.

Help us, Lord,
to remember this story
so that we are always ready to forgive others
just as you are always ready to forgive us.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3:
Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (cf *Luke 18:1-8*)

Jesus told this story: In a certain town there was a judge who was often unjust and unfair. A woman in the town asked the judge to help her settle a quarrel with her neighbour. The judge was not interested in the woman's problem and sent her away. The woman did not give up! She came back every day, day in and day out, until the judge

could not stand being pestered any more. 'I must give this woman what she wants,' he said, 'or she will never give me any peace.'

Then Jesus said, 'If such a man can finally listen and do what is asked of him, how much more will my heavenly Father do for you if you keep on asking.'

DISCUSSION

Why did the woman keep on pestering the judge?
– She was determined that the judge would hear her request, listen carefully to what she wanted and then respond.

Did the woman's persistence pay off? – No-one likes to feel pestered or nagged and after a while the judge finally agreed to what the woman wanted.

Have you ever pestered anyone for something you really wanted? What happened?

(Encourage the children to reflect on their own experiences.)

What was Jesus trying to tell us in this parable?
– That if we ask God for something he will hear our prayers and answer them. Because we do not understand God or his plans for us, sometimes we feel disappointed when he doesn't seem to give us what we want or need, but we must not give up or stop asking, instead we must learn to put our trust in God because he will always do what is best for us.

ACTIVITY

Photocopy the activity sheet and see if the children can discover the woman's message to them!

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us say together the prayer which Jesus himself taught us: Our Father . . .