

Children's liturgy – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Green

Props: Coloured pens and pencils

Song suggestions: Be not afraid (830, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*)

Welcome: Today Jesus warns us that life will be difficult and the world will face wars and disasters but that we mustn't lose hope. We must trust in God who will guide us and save us.

Opening prayer: All-powerful God, nothing is greater than your love, so may we trust in you whatever we face and believe that you are the truth we seek. Amen.

First reading (optional): Malachi 3:19-20

Psalm: Psalm 97:5-9. R. Cf. v.9

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 21:5-19

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

Jesus was with his disciples in the temple. He told them that the temple would one day be destroyed and that there would be wars, earthquakes, and people hungry for food.

Can you think of places in the world today where there are wars, earthquakes and people are hungry for food?

Here are two places:

When Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in the Caribbean recently, more than 400 people died and 350,000 people are in need of help. CAFOD is helping by giving out hot food to people who have left their homes. We are also providing water, bedding and toiletry kits to people who are affected.

In Pakistan an area larger than England was flooded and about 20 million people were affected, because of very heavy rain. Eleven-year-old Rashida and her mother, Sat Bai, fled their village living first on the street, then in tents. When they returned to their village they found that their home and animals had been swept away and that Rashida's brother had drowned. CAFOD partners provided a new temporary shelter. Sat says: *"My daughter and I made the mud wall and levelled the land for the foundations. I was very happy to get a shelter and this is now my home."*

You can see pictures from Haiti and Pakistan in the accompanying photo PowerPoint.

Has your home, or the home of someone you know ever been flooded? How did you/they feel? What did you/they do about it? Did anyone come to help you/them?

What can we do to help and support people who are affected by earthquakes, floods, droughts or other natural disasters here and overseas?

It is not just enough to give people money and food when this happens though. We also have to help them to prepare so that the next time something like this happens they are ready for it. How do you think we can do this?

In Haiti, as well as building new houses that are earthquake proof, farmers have been helped to learn new skills to make landslides less likely to happen.

In Bangladesh Pobitra is a member of a disaster warning group. He listens to the weather on the radio and when a storm or cyclone is coming he warns his village by raising flags outside his tea stall where everyone can see. If the storm is going to be really bad he helps people to get to a local shelter.

Jesus told the disciples not to be afraid. He promised that he would be with them always and that they wouldn't be harmed if they put their trust in him.

Jesus is with us always, even in the hardest times. Often Jesus comes to us in the people who help us.

What will you do this week to help and support people who are affected by earthquakes, floods or drought? How will you help them to know that they haven't been forgotten and that Jesus is always with them?

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

We pray together:

We pray for the Church: that it may stand firm in God's love, supporting and welcoming all, especially those among us who are poor. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters in the Philippines, who have lost homes and loved ones: that they may receive the help they need to rebuild. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters in every country: that they may know that they are not forgotten as we do our best to help our neighbours around the world. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may support each other in all things, especially when life is difficult and we cannot see the light. May we give each other hope. Lord in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Jesus, help us to put our faith and trust in you at all times. May we not be afraid but instead, believe that you will always keep us safe. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying optional illustration.

Share more about the earthquake in Haiti and the floods in Pakistan with the children. Find a PowerPoint update here:

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Emergencies>

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to think about what they can do to help and support people locally or around the world who face flooding, earthquakes or other natural disasters.