

Children's liturgy – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Props: paper windmill, pictures showing the effects of the wind (eg tree bent over, sailing boat/wind turbine, flag flying – there are some pictures in the accompanying photo PowerPoint that you can use)

Song suggestions: Spirit of the living God (666, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we hear how something special happened to Jesus after his baptism. The Holy Spirit came down and rested on him. We are going to think about the Holy Spirit and how it can help us to do what is right.

Opening prayer: God of light, you sent the Spirit down upon your Son so that others might know who he was. Send your Spirit on us, so that we can spread your message of love and peace to others. Amen.

First reading (optional) Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Psalm: Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10 r. 8.9

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: John 1:29-34

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from that story?

John tells us how he saw the Holy Spirit come like a dove to rest on Jesus. Because of this John believed that Jesus was the Son of God.

A dove is one way that the Spirit shows itself, but most of the time the Spirit is invisible. We cannot see it. One way to think of the Spirit is the wind. You cannot see the wind, but you can see the branches of the tree moving when the wind blows. Or you can see a windmill spinning round (*you could demonstrate this!*). Can you think of any other examples of when you can see the wind?

The wind can be very strong. The wind can also be very helpful (*eg show a picture of a sailing boat or a wind turbine*).

Like the wind, the Spirit is very strong and helps us. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptised and the Spirit stays with us all through our lives, helping us to do things that are difficult.

Jesus asks us to love other people, to care for people who are sick and to bring good news to people who are poor. This is not always easy, especially when people are in different countries from us. But when we do these things, other people can see the Spirit working through us, just as we can see the wind in the trees.

The Spirit can help us to take care of the world that God has given to us. Can you think of ways that we can do that?

The Spirit can help us to care for all God's children, wherever they are in the world. And to work to make the world a fairer place so that everyone has somewhere safe to live, food to eat, and can go to school. Can you think of ways that we can do that?

What one thing are you going to do this week so that other people can see the Holy Spirit working through you?

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

God sends the Holy Spirit to help and guide us and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that the Holy Spirit may guide them when they make important decisions, so that they try to make life better for all their people. Lord, hear us...

We pray for all people who are poor: that they may see the signs of the Holy Spirit working around them, as they work to change their lives for the better. Lord, hear us...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we may work together to look after our world and to make it a fairer place for everyone. Lord, hear us...

Closing prayer: God of power, fill us with your Spirit and inspire us to make changes to our lives so that we can help others around the world. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the optional accompanying illustration. On the back they could draw or write one thing that they will do in the coming week, so that other people can see the Spirit in them.

Make doves with the children:

1. Draw the body of a dove on white card for children to cut round (a template can be found below).
2. Draw eyes onto the dove.
3. Help the children to fold an A4 piece of paper to make a fan.

4. Cut a slit in the body of the dove and pass the fan through to create wings. You can then ask them to write or draw on their dove what they will do in the coming week, so that other people can see the Spirit in them.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to do one thing during the week that helps to look after the world that God has given us, or which helps other people, so that other people can see the Holy Spirit through them.

