

Children's liturgy – Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)
Sunday 2 April 2017

Preparing the worship space

Colour: purple

Song suggestions: Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour (200, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about an amazing thing that Jesus does when his friend Lazarus becomes sick and dies. Let's think a bit more about this today.

Opening prayer: God of light and power, we give thanks to you for the gift of life. Help us to do what we can so all people throughout this world can enjoy this gift. Amen.

First reading (optional): Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalm (optional): Ps 129 r. 7

Gospel Acclamation everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. For Lent we use an acclamation that doesn't use the word 'Alleluia'. We suggest 'Change your lives and believe in him' by Christopher Walker (OCP Publications).

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about that reading?

Jesus hears that his friend Lazarus who lives in Bethany is sick. By the time Jesus gets there Lazarus is dead and has been buried for four days.

Jesus goes to the tomb and asks them to roll away the stone which was blocking the entrance. He tells Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Lazarus walks out, covered in the cloths that he was buried in.

How do you think Mary, Martha and the other people there feel when they see Lazarus walking out of the tomb?

Why do you think Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead? (So that the people believe that Jesus is the Son of God.)

Jesus came to bring new life to all people – to show us how to live so that when we die we can have a new life in heaven.

God gives life to us all. God created us and wants every single one of us to live a happy life, with all the things that we need to grow and be the best people we can be.

Is this what always happens?

Not everyone in the world has all the things that they need. Some of our families don't have jobs and so don't have money for things like food and clothes. Some of us don't have clean running water. Some of us don't have anywhere safe to live. Some of us don't have the chance to go to school.

Do you think it is right that some of us do not have all the things that we need to live, while some of us have more than enough?

God created the world for all of us, with food and water to share, but not everyone is getting their fair share. Some of us have too much. And some of us don't have enough.

But we can help to make a new life for ourselves and for others around the world. A world where everyone does have the chance to be happy. A world where everyone has the things that they need.

How do you think we can do this?

Jesus came to show us how to live, how to treat others. This Lent we can look at our own lives, and think about the changes that we can make so that everyone can live their lives to the full. It might be hard, but we can make a big difference to communities around the world.

What change will you make this Lent, to help make a big difference to the lives of other people?

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

God gives life to us all and so we pray together...

We pray for world leaders: that the Holy Spirit will inspire them to do all that they can so that all people can live life to the full. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world: that God may give them the opportunity to change their life for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that Jesus may bring hope to all as we try to make a change and help other members of our global family. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, show us how to share your love and hope with others around the world, and to make a change so that all your children may live the life you want for them. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to draw around the children all the things that they need to live a happy life and be the best people they can be eg clean water, the chance to go to school, medicine, etc. One example, food, has been added to get them started.

On the back get the children to write or draw the change that they will make to build a new life for themselves and for others around the world. If you have been making a display with a net in previous weeks, you could write this 'change' on the back of a fish to add to the net.

Ask them to share with their parents all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to make one change to their own lives and to the lives of other people around the world.