

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**Third Sunday of Easter, Year A**  
**30 April 2017**  
**Luke 24:13-35**

### **Catechist Background**

Some scholars have hypothesised that the pair leaving Jerusalem for Emmaus was a married couple, i.e. Cleopas and his wife. Although some English translations have Jesus say, 'You foolish *men*,' the text does not necessarily mean to imply that they were two male human beings.

It has been theorised that Jerusalem represents the place of faith in the Emmaus story. The distress of the couple causes them to abandon their faith in Jesus and walk away from the holy city. When they recognise him, they hurry back to Jerusalem to share their refound faith.

### **Setting the Scene**

For the discussion below, you may wish to bring a photograph of yourself as a child as an example of how the same person can look very differently.

### **We Say Sorry**

Leader: You come to us when we walk away, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You give us encouragement, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You are always with us, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

### **We Pray (1)**

God, you have made us your children. We look forward for all the joy that is to come. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel** Luke 24:13-25

### **Reflecting on the Reading with Children**

- How do you think the two disciples felt as they left Jerusalem?
- Why do you think they did not recognise Jesus? You may wish to show a photograph of yourself or of another of the leaders as a young child to show how different you looked. You have had some major things happen in your life between the photograph and now, and although it has not been very long, Jesus had some major things happen to him in a short space of time.
- When they realised they had been speaking with Jesus, what did they do? How far did they have to go to get back to Jerusalem? How long do you think that would take you to walk?

## Response

What happened to the disciples going to Emmaus is what we hope happens at mass every Sunday. The two disciples discussed the Scriptures and learned more about Jesus, as we try to learn more about Jesus in the Liturgy of the Word; Jesus 'broke bread' with them, as our parish shares in Jesus' body at Communion; and then they told others what had happened, as we are encouraged to go out and share Jesus' love with other people.

In order to help us see how to best share Jesus' love with other people, it is sometimes necessary to change the way we look at things. Like the disciples in today's story, sometimes OUR eyes aren't looking at things properly. Invite the children to put on special imaginary glasses to see the world the way God sees it. Allow the children to picture themselves in different scenarios with their new vision. How should they act in a situation with another child who is in a bit of a grumpy mood? When someone accidentally knocks over something s/he has been playing with? When somebody answers a question wrongly? With somebody who has fallen over in the playground? With somebody who is not very nice who has fallen over in the playground?

## We Believe

Relating to the Creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

- Do you believe in God who revealed himself to the world through the Hebrew Scriptures?
- Do you believe in Jesus, who fulfilled the message of the prophets by suffering and rising from the dead?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who helps us to recognise Jesus in our lives today?

## We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We are confident that you hear our prayers, and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for all people whose jobs are teaching others about God's love. May they be patient and faithful in their teaching. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all world leaders. May they may make it possible for their people to live Jesus' love freely. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all people who are travelling this weekend. May they reach their destinations safely, and act lovingly in all they do. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for anyone in our parish community who is unable to be here because they are sick. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, the disciples were overjoyed when they understood that you were with them. Help us to recognise you in the hearts of all people we meet. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

