

Children's liturgy – Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: A book in a different language

Song suggestions: Trust is in the eyes of a tiny babe (751, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells us that through him we will come to know God and that we should trust in him as we trust in God.

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, open our hearts to trust in you, so that we may never be afraid to answer your call to love one another, and so that through you we may come closer to God. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 6:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v.22

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 14:1-12

Gospel reflection: Today's reading is a little bit complicated. Jesus is telling his disciples that he is the Son of God. But the disciples find it difficult to understand.

Right at the beginning of today's gospel, Jesus tells the disciples not to be worried and to trust in him.

What does it mean to trust someone?

Trusting someone means believing that they are always there for us, that they are always willing to help us, that they will keep our secrets and comfort us when we are upset or frightened.

We all have people in our lives that we trust. Who do you trust?

How does it feel when someone breaks your trust?

Do other people trust you? How can we help other people to trust in us?

Nine-year-old Thiago lives in North East Brazil, in a place where there is a lot of violence and poverty. He could not imagine a future that would give him hope or even a job. But he trusted the people who came run a CAFOD reading workshop and they helped him to learn. Now he can read he is able to plan more for the future. He feels much happier and in control of his life.

Thiago says, "Reading is good. I read funny stories and others that are really sad. The books help me to become clever, and to have a job to help my grandmother."

If you have time, you could share a [little more information about Thiago](#) with the children.

We can also trust in God. We know that God is always there for us and wants what's best for us. God is always ready to listen.

How can we share our worries with God? How can we show our trust in God?

We can talk to God through prayer. When we pray we can share all our worries and fears and also all our joys and hopes with God.

And we can show our trust in God by listening to what Jesus asks of us and trying to follow him. By loving one another and by doing what is right, we are doing what God wants us to do.

This week how will you show your trust in God?

This week what will you do for the people who trust in you?

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

We share all our worries, fears, joys and hopes with God as we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a place of safety and welcome, where all people can come to know the love of God for us all.
Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that they may do what is right and best for all people, especially those who are poor, and so keep the trust that their people place in them. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may do all that we can to help and support those who trust in us and through our actions show that we trust and believe in God. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of life, we thank you for being there for us always. Help us to do all that you ask of us and to love one another, so that all people may have someone to trust. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will show their trust in God and/or what they will do for the people who trust in them in the coming week.

Show the children the book. What is it like not to be able to read for yourself and having no one to teach you. Then imagine what it would be like if you found someone you could trust.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to think about who they trust and to do one thing to help or support those who trust them this week. Ask them to think about whether they could help to [teach someone to read](#) by buying a World Gift for someone they trust.