

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

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: heart-shaped paper or card, pens and pencils

Song suggestions: Love is his word, love is his way (399, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

A new commandment (4, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells us that if we love him, we must keep his commandments. And that if we do love him, God will also love us. Let's think a bit more about love today.

Opening prayer: God of love, you sent your only Son into the world to show us how to live. Help us to love you and one another in our words and in what we do. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Psalm: Psalm 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. v.1

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 14:15-21

Gospel reflection: Jesus is trying to prepare his disciples for what is coming next – his death on the cross and his rising again.

Can you remember some of what he tells the disciples?

He tells them that if they love him, they must keep his commandments.

Can you remember the commandments that Jesus has given us?

Jesus asked us to love God and to love one another.

We have heard a lot about the refugee crisis and maybe we wonder what it is about. Many people, families, children and small babies are travelling far from home, looking for safety. They need people to help them and make them

welcome. They need people to see them as neighbours and not as strangers. Lots of people are doing their best to help.

You could share more information about the refugee crisis and how CAFOD's partners are trying to help with our "[CAFOD's work with refugees for children](https://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Refugee-resources)" PowerPoint (available at [cafod.org.uk /Education/Primary-schools/Refugee-resources](https://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Refugee-resources)) if you have time.

How can we show our love for one another? How do you show your love for others? How do others show their love for you?

It is often easy to show our love for those people who are close to us. We can be kind and generous to our friends, we can listen to our parents, carers and teachers. We can share with our brother or sister.

And they show their love for us by comforting us when we are upset, by looking after us and by sharing their things with us too.

But we are all God's children. God loves each and every one of us because we are special. And so we need to do our best to show our love to all people, not just those who are close by.

How will you show your love for others, both here and around the world in the coming week?

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

We believe that we are loved by God and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a living example of God's love for all people, especially those who are in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world: that together with them, we may do all that we can to build a better world, free from hunger and poverty, and filled with love. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may love God with all our hearts and be inspired to reach out in love to others. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Christ Jesus, you came into the world to show us how to live. May we follow your commandment of love for one another and do what we can to care for all people, especially those who are poor. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and on the back to write or draw how they will show their love for others in the coming week.

Give the children heart shapes cut out of paper or card. Ask the children to write the name of someone they love on one side, and of someone who loves them on the other. Then under each name ask them to write or draw what they will do to show their love for these people in the coming week.

Ask the children to write a prayer thanking God for all the people in the world that they love and who are important to them asking God to bless them and watch over them. Ask the children to think about people they know and also all their brothers and sisters around the world in this prayer.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a prayer, ask them to say this together at home during the week, perhaps at bedtime. Ask them to do at least one thing that shows their love for others during the coming week.