

# WELCOME!

## VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of houses and families at home.
- > Several card sets of the individual letters of W E L C O M E .
- > House shape cut-outs.

## WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

*Say/sing together:*

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus will show us  
the way to the Father.  
Alleluia!**

A reading from the Good News given to us by John.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus says,  
'My friends,  
never be upset in your hearts.  
Keep on trusting in God and in me.  
In my Father's house there is room  
for everyone,  
and I am going to get a place ready  
for you.'

## DISCUSSION

Jesus says we never need be upset in our hearts: why?

What does Jesus promise that he is doing for us?

What does he ask us to do in return for the welcome he is preparing for us?  
- trust him.

We have a prayer of trust in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; it is called the Creed. Make up a simple Creed together, saying:  
I trust God the Father because . . . (he created me);  
I trust in Jesus, his Son, because . . . (he died to save me);  
I trust in the Holy Spirit, who . . . (makes me a child of God).

## SHARING

Give out the letter cards and challenge the children to discover the word they make.

Encourage the children to talk about ways of making people welcome. Who needs welcoming?  
- children starting new school, new class; new brothers and sisters, etc. Who welcomes us?

- friends, relations, etc, when we go visiting, etc.

For all people who welcome us say or sing a Gloria - which was the song the angels used to greet the birth of Jesus.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us about the welcome he is preparing for us in his Father's house.

When your place is ready I myself will come for you and take you to my Father's house.  
Then you and I will live together forever.

Trust in me and you will be welcome in my Father's house for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## ACTIVITIES

- > Give out the house shapes.
- > On them have the children write or draw:  
either, a way in which they will make someone feel welcome in the next week;  
or, the person they will welcome in the week ahead.

