

Children's liturgy –Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Sunday 1 October 2017- for Harvest Fast Day 2017

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Props: colouring pens, pencils or crayons, CAFOD's El Salvador geography photo pack, means to show a short video

Song suggestions: Bread for the world (625, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about two sons who are both asked to help their father. Let's think a bit about how we can help other people today. Let's also think about how we listen to what God asks of us and how we can do what is asked.

Opening prayer: God of love, open our ears to listen to your word. Lead us to help one another and to live our lives as you ask us to. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

First reading (optional): Ezekiel 18:25-28

Psalm: Psalm 24:4-9. R. v.6

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: Matthew 21:28-32

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's gospel reading?

A man had two sons and he asked them both to go out and work in the vineyard. What did the sons say?

The first son said he would not go. But what happened next? He changed his mind and went as his father had asked him.

The second son said he would go. But what happened next? He did not go out to the vineyard.

Jesus asks a question about this story. Which one of the two sons did what his father asked him to do? The first son or the second son?

The first son went and did what his father asked, even though at first he did not want to.

Can you think of a time when someone asked you to do something? Did you do it? Or did you just say you would do it?

How did you feel afterwards? And how do you think the person who asked for your help felt?

What will you do the next time someone asks you for help? How will you help other people in the coming week?

Why do you think Jesus tells this story? What is he trying to teach us?

The man in the story is God. And we are all God's children. So Jesus is trying to tell us that we should listen to what God asks of us and then go and do what is asked.

It is not enough just to say that we will follow God in our lives. We actually have to go and do what is asked. We have to live our lives as God wants us to.

How do you think we can do that today?

God asks us to take care of the world and the people in it and it is up to us how we answer.

Jacqueline and her family live in one of the poorest areas of El Salvador.

Although they live in a poor area, Jacqueline and her family are pleased to have animals and a vegetable garden. They have been able to build a new house with money from selling their pigs.

CAFOD has been supporting Jacqueline's family for many years, so they can have the things they need to grow their way out of poverty.

Blessed Oscar Romero, who came from El Salvador, once said, "It is not God's will for some to have everything and others to have nothing."

We are called to help our sisters and brothers around the world, like Jacqueline, to have a brighter future.

Let's think about how we can Brighten Up this Harvest, and play our part to build a brighter world free from poverty, so that all everyone can live life to the full.

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

We know that God loves us and so we have the courage to pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may never forget people who are poor and may make decisions for the good of all our brothers and sisters. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world: that they may have the chance to grow their way out of poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, our families and our friends: that we may be moved to share what we have with others, especially those who are poor or in need. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, help us to work together to build a brighter world, where each of us can become the best person we can be. Let us learn from communities around the world, who are working hard to grow their way out of poverty. We pray we may share generously all you have given us. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Download the accompanying optional illustration of Blessed Oscar Romero at cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy Ask the children to colour it in.

Download Jacqueline's story from the El Salvador Geography photo pack: <https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/16523/128820/version/7/file/Geography%20photo%20pack.pdf>

Can you see which part of El Salvador Jacqueline lives in? Discuss the differences between our country and Jacqueline's. Read her story from the postcard (see 3.1).

If you can, watch the Brighten Up video for this Harvest Fast Day at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sylvh9731SX4>

Design and colour-in a unique t-shirt with the 'Brighten Up' logo or bring in some plain t-shirts and ask the children to decorate them now.

Ask the children to listen carefully to all that they are asked to do in the next week. And to try to always help people when they ask. Ask them to think about how they can brighten the lives of others in real and long-lasting ways.

Ask the children to sit quietly for a few moments and listen to God. What is God asking them to do? Ask them to try and follow what God wants for them this week.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to try to do what God wants them to do this week and to share what they have with others. Encourage them to organise a Brighten Up event in their class or at home to help raise money for CAFOD. Ideas can be found at cafod.org.uk/primary