

Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year

The wedding party

INTRODUCTION

God gives each one of us an invitation to join him in his heavenly kingdom and the celebration of everlasting life. We must choose whether to accept the invitation or turn away from his loving offer.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As the candles are lit we say together: May the light of God's love shine in our lives.

SORRY

Lord help us to be good, and forgive us if we have failed to do what is right.

Sing Sorry Song 1: *Dear Lord Jesus*

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2:
Light up our hearts.

GOSPEL (cf Matthew 22:1-14)

One day Jesus said, 'The kingdom of heaven is like this:

A king planned a great party for his son's wedding. When everything was ready, he sent his servants to tell all the guests who had been invited to come and join in the celebrations, but each of them had an excuse for not coming. The king was furious and said to his servants, 'These people do not deserve to share in my party, so go out and invite everyone you meet, they can come to the wedding instead!' Soon the hall was filled with people, good and bad alike. The king noticed one man who had not bothered to dress for the occasion. He sent for his servants and the man was thrown out into the dark.'

DISCUSSION

If you want people to come to your birthday party, what do you give or send to them?

What sort of things do you tell them on the invitation?

- the date
- the place
- the time
- what to wear, for example it might be fancy dress or a silly hats party.

Imagine if everything was ready for your party –

the cake, the games, the bouncy castle, but when you went to collect your guests no-one wanted to come. How would you feel?

In the story, what did the king do when no-one who had been invited came to the wedding celebration? – He invited everybody to the party. In the same way God invites all of us into the kingdom of Heaven. If we refuse to accept his invitation we are like the guests who refused to come to the King's celebration.

Why was the man at the end of the story asked to leave? – He had accepted the King's invitation, but he had not bothered to make the effort to dress for the occasion. If we accept God's invitation to join him in the kingdom of Heaven, then we must make the effort to do what is right and follow God's way or we cannot become part of the final celebration at the end of time.

ACTIVITY

Either give each child a copy of an invitation to fill in and complete

OR

ask them to draw a picture of the wedding party.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
you invite each one of us
to enter the kingdom of Heaven.
Help us to make the effort
to do things God's way,
so that we can accept your offer
and be ready to share in your glory
at the end of time.