

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year

Living love

INTRODUCTION

Jesus taught us to love God and to love each other more than anything else in our lives.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Jesus,
help us to listen to your word today.
And let the light of your love
shine out like these candles,
touching the lives of everyone we meet.

SORRY

When we fall, we pick ourselves up again and carry on as before. As we journey through life, sometimes we get things wrong, we make mistakes, we stumble and fall. Jesus is always there to help us up, so we can carry on.

Sing Sorry Song 4: *When we say that we are sorry.*

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 1:
Share your word with us.

GOSPEL (cf Matthew 22:34-40)

Again the Pharisees asked Jesus a question which was meant to trick him. 'Which of the commandments is the greatest?' they asked.

Jesus answered 'You must love God with all your might; this is the first and most important commandment. The second greatest commandment is also about love – loving your neighbour as yourself. All the other rules are based on these two commandments.'

DISCUSSION

God gave Moses ten commandments to help his people to lead lives pleasing to God. Can you remember any of them?

(See *Sixth Sunday of Year A.*)

Which two commandments did Jesus say are the most important?

When Jesus talked about loving our 'neighbours', did he mean the people living next door to us? – Our neighbours are not only the people we know well, our friends and those that we like. They include the people we meet by chance every day of our lives; each one of these is a neighbour.

Why do you think Jesus chose these two

commandments above all the others? – The kingdom of God is the most priceless jewel, and knowing Jesus is the most precious treasure of all. This means putting the love of God and our neighbour before everything else in our lives. By loving God all we can, each of us becomes more loving in turn, and ready to share that love with each other.

Jesus *showed* us how to love God and our neighbour. He put his words of love into *action* every day, and this is what he wants us to do.

Saint Paul wrote a letter to the Christians who lived in the Greek city of Corinth, to remind them of the perfect love which Jesus had shared with everyone (cf 1. Corinthians 13:4-7):

Love never hurries, it is always kind.

It is not jealous, and never boasts of its greatness.

Love is not rude or selfish.

It is always ready to forgive

and forget mistakes we make.

Love is no friend of wickedness,

but delights in honesty and truth.

Love is strong and never gives up.

It never loses its trust in God

or its hope for the future.

Love will survive all things because it is everlasting.

If we remember to put these words into *action*, then we will be putting the two greatest commandments into *action* in our lives.

ACTIVITY

Photocopy the words of St Paul for each child to decorate and take home with them.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord,
I have only one life,
and shall not live this day again.
Help me to remember
that everyone is my neighbour.
If I can do something good
or show my kindness,
then help me to do it today,
for unless love is shared it cannot grow.