

## **Children's liturgy –Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

### **Preparation of the worship space**

Colour: green

Props: Coloured pens and pencils, a big picture of the world.

**Song suggestions:** One bread one body (832, Laudate)

A new commandment (920, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today Jesus gives the disciples and us two commandments for how we should live our lives. Let's think a bit more about them and how we can follow them now.

**Opening prayer:** Merciful and ever-loving God, open our hearts to love and serve you in all that we do. Help us to reach out in love to one another around the world. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Exodus 22:20-26

**Psalm:** Psalm 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v.2

**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 22:34-40

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

Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is. Can you remember what he says?

Jesus says the greatest and the first commandment is that we should love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind.

Let's think quietly for a moment about this. When we love someone we try to show this in the way that we treat them. How do you think you can show that you love God?

We can show that we love God when we pray - by giving thanks and praise to God. And by remembering all that God asks us to do and trying to behave in a

way that pleases God. This is where the second commandment comes in. Can you remember what it was?

Jesus asks us to love our neighbour as ourselves. When Jesus asks us to love our neighbour, do you think he just means the person who lives next door? Who else is our neighbour?

Our neighbours are all the people in the same street, at school and at church, in our town and in our world. After all we're all part of the same big global family. And we're all loved by God.

Some neighbours live close to us and some live far away. But Jesus asks us to love them all as we love ourselves. What do you think this means?

Jesus wants us to treat other people as we would want to be treated, to make sure all people are treated fairly, and have what they need. How do you think we can do that?

CAFOD helps our neighbours to have clean water, to have a home, to go to school, and to go to the doctor if they are unwell. CAFOD works with neighbours all around the world to make sure they have what they need.

Sometimes it can be difficult to decide who is our neighbour. In fact Jesus asks us to see everyone in need as our neighbour. There are people in our world who have travelled very far because of conflict and they simply want to make a new home for themselves.

Think about your neighbours close by and those far away. What will you do to help your neighbours and show your love for them 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 love God with all our hearts and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may do as Jesus asks, showing love for God and all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our neighbours around the world: that they may get a fair price for the things that they grow and that they may have all that they need to live. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may reach out in love to our neighbours around the world and do all we can to help make sure all people are treated fairly. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** God of life, we love you, we thank you and we praise you for all that you have done for us. Help us to love our neighbours, both here and around the world, and treat all people as we would wish to be treated. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying optional illustration of two neighbours helping each other out. Ask them to write or draw on the back how they will show their love for their neighbours here and far away in the coming week.

Share the "Neighbours around the world" PowerPoint with the children and discuss the questions with them (available in the Neighbours section at [cafod.org.uk/comeandsee](http://cafod.org.uk/comeandsee) – you may have to register to download).

Share the "Neighbours reflection" PowerPoint with the children (available in the Neighbours section at [cafod.org.uk/comeandsee](http://cafod.org.uk/comeandsee) – you may have to register to download). Ask them to write their own prayer for their global neighbours.

Share the "Helping our neighbours" PowerPoint with the children and see if they can think of any other ways in which we can help our global neighbours. (Available in the Neighbours section at [cafod.org.uk/comeandsee](http://cafod.org.uk/comeandsee) – you may have to register to download).

Some people have lost their homes and are looking for a safe place. These new 'neighbours' are called refugees and CAFOD have created ways that we can help them. Through CAFOD World gifts we can support people like Dania, Omar and Rama who need catch up lessons for the education that they have missed. Read how people can help at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/frontpage/products/help-a-refugee-child>

Ask the children to write or draw ways that they can show love for their neighbours at home and beyond. Display these around a big picture of the world, to show that we are all neighbours.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a prayer for their neighbours ask them to say it together during the week. Ask them to try and do all that they can to show love for their neighbours in the coming week. Ask them to visit CAFOD's website for children, Picture my world ([cafod.org.uk/picturemyworld](http://cafod.org.uk/picturemyworld)) to find out more about their global neighbours.