

Children's liturgy –Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: All that I am (600, Laudate)

In bread we bring you (609, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear that we must make the best use of the talents we have been given by God. Let's think about this now.

Opening prayer: Generous God, we give you thanks for the gifts and talents that you have given us. Help us to make the best use of them that we can and to serve you in all that we do. Amen.

First reading (optional): Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Psalm: Psalm 127:1-5. R. v.1

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 25:14-30

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

Jesus tells another parable. This time a man is about to go abroad and so he calls his servants to him and gives them each something to look after.

He gives the first servant five talents ("talents" was a word for money in Jesus' time). He gives the second servant two talents. And the final servant one talent. What did the servants do with the talents they had been given?

The first one used the five talents he had been given and made five more. So he gave the master back ten talents all together. The second one used the two talents he had been given and made two more, giving the master back four talents all together.

The final servant hid his talent in the ground. When his master came back he dug it up and returned it to him.

How did the master react? Why do you think he was so angry? What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us in this parable?

Jesus is telling us that it is important to use the gifts that God has given us. We are all good at different things. We all have different skills and talents. What is your talent?

Some of us are good at singing, some of us are good at sport. Some of us are good at dancing, some of us are good at drawing. Some of us are good at baking. Some of us are good at building lego. Some of us are good at speaking out when we see that something is wrong or unfair. Some of us are good at helping others.

Whatever your talent is, Jesus is saying that it is important not to hide our talents from others – to just keep them to ourselves and never let them grow. Instead, it is by going out into the world, by sharing our talents and using our skills to help others that we serve God.

If you have the resources to do so, watch and listen to this poem called '[We have seen from the mountain top place](#)' written and spoken by Rachel Mannix. Rachel has used her talents and experiences with CAFOD to create a really moving piece of work.

For the *Brighten Up* theme for the Harvest Fast Day this year, lots of schools, parishes and community groups used their talents to raise money to help others. Did your school or parish do anything special? Perhaps you are mentioned on the CAFOD website <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Your-stories> Cake sales, painted nails and fancy dress; so many different talents being shared to make the world a better place. By using our skills to help others in our world, we are also serving God.

How will you use your talents to serve God 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 pray together for God's help to use our talents wisely:

We pray for world leaders: that they may use their talents for the good of all people, making the world a fairer place for everyone to live. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children around the world: that they may all have the chance to learn new skills and to use their talents to make the world a better place. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may not hide our talents away, but instead use them to help others, especially people who are poor. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Generous God, you gave us a voice. Help us shout loud for what is right and fair. You gave us ears. Help us listen to those in need. You gave us talents. Help us share and multiply them for the good of all your people. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the optional accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will use their talents to serve God and make the world a better place in the coming week.

Ask the children to demonstrate their talents – and to think about how they could use these gifts to make the world a fairer and better place for all people to live.

Ask the children to write a prayer, thanking God for the gifts and talents that they have been given.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to try not to hide their talents away this week, but to use them to help others and serve God. If they have written a prayer ask them to pray it at home during the week.