

Children's liturgy – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Props: photos of children from around the world and their names, large sheet of coloured card.

Welcome: Today we hear how Jesus named Simon, Peter, which means "rock". Names are very important – we all have one and God knows all of us by our name. Let's think a bit more about names today.

Song suggestions: Do not be afraid (147, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Opening prayer: God of all, you know us all by our name, and love and care for us, because we are all your children. Help us also to love and care for our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen.

First reading (optional): 1 Samuel 3:3b-10

Psalm: Psalm 39:2, 4, 7-10, r. 8, 9

Gospel acclamation: everyone stands and sings the gospel acclamation together. Options include: 'Change your lives and believe in him', Christopher Walker; 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Celtic Alleluia' (traditional).

Gospel: John 1:35-42

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

The gospel today tells us about how the disciples first became followers of Jesus.

Jesus looked at Simon and decided he should be called Peter, which means "rock". Why do you think Jesus chose this name for Simon Peter?

Simon Peter was dependable (like a rock) and he was the foundation for the Church. (Buildings are built on rock foundations so that they do not fall over).

Names are very important. We all have one, or two, or maybe even three. And some of us have a nickname that we like to be called by our family or our friends.

How many names do you have? What are they? Do you know what your name means? What do you like about your name?

You could look up in advance what the names of some of the children mean, or what your own name means.

You could also share the names, photos and a little bit of info about children around the world with your group. See the activity suggestions for more details.

We are all part of God's family and so God knows us all by our name and loves and cares for us wherever we are in the world. God's family spreads out all over the world and includes all kinds of different people.

How does this make you feel?

How do you think God wants us to treat our brothers and sisters around the world – each of whom God knows by name?

God wants us to treat each other fairly, with love and respect and to care for one another. So, how will you treat your brothers and sisters here and around the world 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 know that God loves us and knows everyone by name and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may make wise decisions for the good of all the members of our global family. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world, especially those who are living in poverty: that they may be able to change their lives for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may take the time to get to know others, no matter where in the world they are from or how different they are from us, and care for them and help them as God loves and cares for us. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, help us to remember that all people throughout the world are special because you know us by our names and we are all your children. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration, making the person in the picture look like them. Then ask them to write their name in big colourful letters above it. On the back ask them to write a prayer for all their brothers and sisters in their global family, who God also knows by name, and say it together with the people at home during the week.

Share the names, photos and information about some children around the world with your group. (Photos can be found in the accompanying photo PowerPoint which you can print off and show the children). You could ask the children about the similarities and differences between their lives and the lives of the children featured here. Or ask them whether they know anyone else with these names and what they are like.

Sila lives in Cambodia with her uncle and she likes reading stories. Her favourite subject at school is maths.

Kelenia is nine years old and lives in Rwanda. She lives with her mum and her younger sister. She helps around the house by collecting fire wood, fetching water and sweeping. She likes to play hide and seek.

Yusuf lives in Ethiopia and is ten years old. He has six brothers and sisters and loves playing football.

Erik lives in Honduras. He wants to be a mechanic when he grows up. When he's not at school he looks after his family's cow and the fish in the fish tank. They have 50 fish and use them as food.

Create a poster with the children on a large sheet of coloured card. In the centre write "God knows us all by name". Ask the children to draw a picture of themselves and write their name and stick those around the text to make the poster. You could also add in the pictures and names of some of the children from around the world that they have heard about in the session.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Encourage them to go to picturemyworld.cafod.org.uk when they get home to find out more about other children around the world and their names. If they have written a prayer ask them to say it together with the people at home during the week.