

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

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Props: A bandage, plaster, medicine, stethoscope

Song suggestions: Lay your hands (347, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus healed people who were sick. Many people who were ill came to Jesus and he made them better. Who makes you feel better when you are sick? Let's think some more about healing today.

Opening prayer: Merciful God, look after all those who are sick. Help us to bring them comfort and make them feel better in any way that we can. Watch over all doctors, nurses and carers and give them strength in their difficult job. Amen.

First reading (optional): Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Psalm: Psalm 146:1-6 r. 3

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: Mark 1:29-39

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about the reading?

Simon's mother-in-law is sick. She has a fever and is in bed. Jesus arrives at the house, takes her by the hand and helps her out of bed. Immediately she feels better.

Later that day lots of people who were ill came to the place where Jesus was. Some of them may have travelled a long way. Jesus helps them all, curing them and making them feel better.

What does this story tell us about Jesus? How does he heal the people that come to him?

When was the last time that you were sick? How did you feel? Who helped you and made you feel better? What did they do to make you feel better?

Hold up a bandage and ask the children how many of them have had to wear one before.

Hold up some medicine and ask how many of the children have had to take medicine before.

Hold up the stethoscope and ask the children if they know what it is and whether the doctor has ever used one on them before.

Sometimes when we are sick we have to see a doctor or go to the hospital. How long does it take to get from your house to the doctors?

In some countries around the world people have to travel a very long way to see a doctor. This is very difficult, especially when they are ill. How do you think this makes them feel? How do you feel when you hear this?

CAFOD has provided Mani Kasuna in Nigeria with a bicycle. Mani is a health visitor, who helps people to stay healthy or to get better when they are sick. What difference do you think having a bicycle makes to Mani's work?

Now that he has a bicycle, he is able to travel around more easily from village to village and visit his patients. This means he is able to help more people. This is very good news!

There are pictures of Mani in the accompanying photo PowerPoint that you could print off and show to the children.

Jesus healed all those who came to him for help. Although we cannot heal people the way Jesus did, we can help them by making sure that wherever they are in the world, they are able to reach a doctor, or that the doctor can reach them, and that they get the medicine that they need. How do you think we can do this?

What one thing will you do to help someone who is sick this week?

Intercessions: *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We believe in Jesus who healed the sick and so we pray together:

We pray for people who are sick around the world: that they may be comforted and find strength in the help of others. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all doctors, nurses and healthcare workers: that they may be inspired by the healing ministry of Jesus and treat their patients with love, compassion and care. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may care for one another when we are ill and work together to make sure that all people have the chance to get the medicine and care they need when they are sick. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of love, inspire us all to follow Jesus' example of loving care and healing, and to treat all those who are ill with care, compassion and tenderness. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of Mani. On the back ask them to write a prayer for all those people in the world who are sick.

Get one child to imagine that they are Jesus in this gospel reading. Get another to imagine that they are Simon's mother-in-law. Get another to be Simon, or a member of the crowd who see Jesus healing many people. Then get the other children to ask questions of the characters in the reading eg "How does it feel to...", "What did you think when..." and any other questions that they might have to bring the reading alive.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to say the prayer that they have written together during the week. Ask them to visit CAFOD's website for children (picturemyworld.cafod.org.uk) and play the Mani's healthy village game.