

Children's liturgy – Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: purple

Props: Some Fairtrade items e.g. bananas, coffee, biscuits, sugar, chocolate

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus gets angry when he sees something that he does not think is right or fair. When we look at the world we can see lots of things that are not fair. Let's think a bit today about how we can change this.

Song suggestions: *God's spirit is in my heart* (864, Laudate)
A new commandment (920, Laudate)

Opening prayer: God of justice, help us to stand up for what we believe in as we try to make the world a fairer place for everyone. Amen.

First reading (optional): Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm: Psalm 18:8-11, R. John 6:68

Gospel acclamation: all say or sing the acclamation. For Lent we use an acclamation that doesn't use the word 'Alleluia'. We suggest: Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from that reading?

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem for a feast called Passover and went to the Temple. There he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, which the people used as offerings to God. There were also many money-changers, so that pilgrims from different lands could change their money and buy the offerings.

Why do you think that seeing all this made Jesus angry?

The Temple is a place of prayer and yet the money changers and stallholders made it into a place of business. They were charging a high price for their services, which was not fair on those people who did not have much money but still wished to worship God.

Jesus made a whip and drove them all out of the Temple. How do you think all the people felt when they saw this?

Jesus was standing up for what he believed in. He saw something that he did not think was fair or right and so he acted to change the situation.

Can you think of some things that you have seen that are unfair or which are not right?

For example have you seen people being unkind to others or not treating other people as they should? What did you do about it?

Do you think it is fair that some people are so poor that they can't afford to buy enough food?

What do you do when you see something that you know is wrong or unfair? What can you do to change the things in the world that are unfair?

CAFOD is an organisation that works to try and make the world a fairer place for everyone, especially people who are poor around the world.

One way of doing this is by buying Fairtrade goods. (Show the children the Fairtrade items.) Sometimes the people who make or grow the things we buy don't earn enough money to live on or buy food for their families. When we buy Fairtrade tea or coffee or bananas or chocolate we know that the people who grew and produced these things are being paid a fair wage and are able to make enough money to feed their families.

What will you do this week to make the world a fairer place and how will you stand up for what you believe in?

Intercessions: It can be hard to stand up for what we believe in and so we pray together for God's help:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be strong in standing up for what it believes and may help to build a fairer world. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people who grow the food we eat around the world: that they may get a fair price for all their hard work. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may follow Jesus's example and never be afraid to stand up for what is right and fair. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Christ Jesus, show us how to be brave enough to stand up for what is right and fair. Give us the courage to change the things we know are wrong and help us to make the world a fairer place for our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and write or draw on the back what they will do to try to make the world a fairer place over the next week.

If your parish has a Fairtrade stall, ask the children to make a poster publicising it.

Ask the children to tell their family all that that they have heard and thought about during the session. Suggest they count how many Fairtrade items they can spot on their next visit to the supermarket – show them the logo to look out for.

See more Fairtrade activities for children at cafod.org.uk/primary/fairtrade

If you haven't already printed out and given older children the one-page primary Lent calendar from cafod.org.uk/primary, you could do so today and/or remind them to use some of the activities on it this week.