

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

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Props: paper template of a figure, colouring pencils, stapler or tape

Song suggestions: Here I am, Lord (865, Laudate)

When I needed a neighbour (888, Laudate)

Take my hands (608, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus gives us a challenge to see everyone around us as our brother or sister. We think about how we can take on that challenge and love others as our family.

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, you ask us to see others as family and guide us in how to do this with courage. Help us to build a global family where everyone is included. Amen.

First reading (optional): Genesis 3:9-15

Psalm: Psalm 129 r. 7

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: Mark 3:20-35

Gospel reflection: In today's gospel some people challenge Jesus about his ministry. Why do you think this is?

Is there anything in the gospel that you find interesting?

Why do you think that Jesus would compare his own family to the people around him?

When we come to Mass we see that we are all different but we all belong. As followers of Jesus we try to see everyone as family.

Can you think of a time when your parish has come together as a family?

When we see people in need across the world, this gospel reminds us that they are family too. And that means we should do our best to help them if needed.

We can care for others, even if they live far away, just the same as if they were members of our own family. As if they are our brothers and sisters.

For example, Ruth was born in Yei in South Sudan. A civil war meant that Ruth and her family had to leave their home and they now live in a refugee camp in Uganda. It is not an easy life.

Water supplies were short. Women and children queued before dawn to fill their containers. Now there are water pumps inside the camp.

Catholic charity, Caritas Uganda, gave Ruth's father seeds and gardening tools. He was able to grow a vegetable called okra, which he could sell. With the money, he was able to buy sandals for Ruth and her brothers. He also bought meat, fish and tomatoes to add variety to their diet.

Life is better than it was, but Ruth's family looks forward to the day they can return to their own home.

Ruth and her family, and all people around the world, are our brothers and sisters. We are asked to care for them and to help them.

How will you show that you care for your brothers and sisters around the world this week?

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

We pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may encourage all people to care for the troubles of others, to share and to stand up for what is right.
Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that they may do all that they can to make sure that all people have the freedom to live in their own homes, free from fear.
Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may do what we can to keep the lives of others in mind, to work for peace and to offer help when we can.
Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Christ Jesus, you tell us that we are all part of your family. Help us to care for others so that everyone may live together in peace. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Encourage the children to draw themselves within the template figures. Cut them out and staple or tape the hands together in a circle. Talk about how we come together in friendship when we offer each other the Sign of Peace during the Mass.

Share some more stories of children who have had to flee their homes and encourage the children to get involved with the *Share the Journey* campaign to show that they care for their global brothers and sisters. Resources are available from cafod.org.uk/primary/refugees

Ask them to tell their family all that they have heard and thought about today. When they do things together as a family ask them to remember how they are part of God's family. Ask the children to think about ways they can welcome others in the coming week, and treat all people as brothers and sisters.