

Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year

All goodness comes from God

INTRODUCTION

Anyone who loves Jesus and acts in his name, is filled with the goodness of God. Whatever our religion or race might be, God will see this goodness, and reward us with his love.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read aloud (*cf Romans 13:12-13*):

Live your lives as children of the light.

Do not hide in the darkness,
for there is nothing to fear.

Fill your lives with love and goodness,
and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

SORRY

If we have shut out God's love and turned away from him, let us ask his spirit to change our hearts as we pray:

Lord Jesus,
you were always kind and caring;
forgive us if we have been selfish or unkind,
and help us to become more loving and thoughtful.
Lord in your mercy.
(*Resp*): Hear our prayer.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2:
Light up our hearts.

GOSPEL (*cf Mark 9:38-41*)

One day John came to Jesus and said, 'Lord, we saw a man curing the sick in your name, and because we did not know him, we told him to stop!'

But Jesus said to him, 'Do not stop anyone who is using my name from doing something good. By their actions they show their love for me, and they can do no harm. Any person who acts kindly for my sake will be rewarded for their goodness in heaven.'

DISCUSSION

Why was John worried about the man who was curing the sick? – Although this man was a follower of Jesus, and cured people using his name, the disciples did not know him. John was

worried that his actions might not please Jesus.

What did John try to do? – John tried to stop the man from curing the sick.

What did Jesus say about the man who acted kindly using his name? – As followers of Christ we are called Christians, and we try to live as Jesus did – filling our lives with kindness and love, and obeying God's commandments. This man was also a Christian who believed in Jesus and showed his love for God, by helping people who were sick. Jesus saw the goodness of this man who acted with kindness and love, and he was pleased.

How does God pour out his goodness into our hearts? – God's generosity is so great that he freely offers his love to all people of every race, colour and religion. He shares this love with the world through the gift of his Holy Spirit. The spirit brings us his gifts and guides our lives, so that we can share God's goodness with everyone we meet.

ACTIVITY

Copy the dove and the picture of the world onto a large sheet of paper to be coloured and pinned onto a board. See if the children can remember the seven gifts which the Holy Spirit shares with us. (See Pentecost Sunday.)

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray
that the spirit of God
will work through our lives,
so we can share
Christ's love with the world.

