

Children's liturgy – Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions

Water of life, cleanse and refresh us (401, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*)

Welcome: Today we hear Jesus talk about the importance of offering someone a cup of water to drink when they are thirsty. Let's think a bit more about this today.

Opening prayer: God of light and life, help us always to think about the needs of others in our global family, especially those who live in poverty, and be generous in all that we do. Amen.

First reading (optional): Numbers 11:25-29

Psalm: Psalm 18:8, 10, 12-14 r. 9

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 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Gospel reflection: Can you remember what Jesus says to the disciples about water in today's Gospel?

Jesus says that anyone who gives them a cup of water to drink, because they are his disciples, will be rewarded in heaven. Why do you think that Jesus says this?

Jesus was sending out the disciples to spread his word. They had to leave their homes and their families behind and they had to rely on other people to welcome them and to share with them, so that they could live. How do you think that must have felt?

It must have been difficult for the disciples. They couldn't just turn on a tap when they were thirsty and get water to drink and they didn't have money to buy food when they were hungry.

Longora lives in Uganda in a village a long way from the capital city. There is no electricity, no gas and no hospital nearby.

Where Longora lives it is so hot and dry that people struggle to get enough clean water to survive.

A few years ago, when Longora was expecting a baby, she became very ill from drinking dirty water from the local river.

Now CAFOD has helped to fix the well in the village so that there is clean water. They have also taught the villagers how to fix it if it gets broken.

Proscovia also lives in Uganda. Two of her sisters had to drop out of school to collect water. The same thing almost happened to her.

But because CAFOD has helped to fix the well near her home she no longer has to go so far to get water. This means she can stay clean and stay in school. Proscovia is happy learning with her friends.

What difference do you think this makes to Longora and to Proscovia? How do you think they feel?

Water has many uses and it is really important. We all need water to live.

Friday is CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day, and so perhaps in the coming week, we can do our best to share what we have, so that all people around the world can have their fair share of the basic things like water that we need to live.

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

Jesus calls us to help those who are in need. Let us remember this as we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a place of welcome and support for all people, especially those who are poor. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people throughout the world: that they may have their fair share of food and water which has been given by God to us all. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may be inspired to make a difference and to share what we have so that all people may have enough. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Generous God, you created the world with enough for all people to share. May we work together with others, so that everyone throughout the world has their fair share of food and water and may live life to the full. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to draw or write on the back all the way that they use water in their lives.

For activities and resources to support CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day with the children visit cafod.org.uk/primary

Ask the children to write a prayer for all the people throughout the world who do not have access to clean water.

Ask the children to tell their family all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a prayer ask them to say it together during the week. Ask them during the week, each time they eat or drink, to think about children around the world who do not have enough food to eat, or clean running water.