

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

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Props: coloured paper or card, glue, pencils and pens

Song suggestions

Will you let me be your servant (813, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*)

Welcome: Today Jesus reminds us that it is not power or money which makes us important, but how much we help other people. Let's think about how we can help others today...

Opening prayer: Servant God, show us how we can help others, so that all members of our global family can live free from hunger and poverty. Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 53:10-11

Psalm: Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22 r. 2

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 10:35-45

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

James and John ask to sit by Jesus's side in Heaven, but Jesus says he is not able to give them these seats.

The other disciples start to get cross with James and John. Why do you think they get cross?

The disciples felt that James and John were showing off and that James and John thought they were the best and most important disciples.

Can you think of a time when you got cross because someone else was showing off about how important they are? Perhaps someone was showing off that they were the best footballer or that they had better shoes or toys than you?

Can you remember what Jesus said to the disciples to stop them from being angry at each other?

Jesus said that the greatest disciple was not the one who went around showing off his power, or money or things. But rather that the greatest disciple must be like a servant – humble and helping others in all that they do.

How do you think the disciples felt when they heard this?

Eight year old Amos lives with his mother, Stella, and the rest of his family in Kitui in Kenya. In 2014 the land was suffering from drought, it was arid and barren. The reservoir of the great Musosya dam was not filled by water, but sand and silt. To get water Stella had to walk five kilometres to the river. Sometimes she had to fetch water three times a day and Amos would also have to help. The river water was not safe for drinking and many people would get ill from drinking it.

Imagine not being able to just turn on a tap to get water. How far do you think five kilometres is (*perhaps find a place that the children will know that is that far away*)? Could you walk that far every day? And carrying a big container of water?

But the people of Kitui had a plan. And they had people to help them. George, one of CAFOD's water specialists, worked with the community to come up with an amazing idea. For two years the community, with the support of CAFOD, worked to change the whole landscape around them.

Together they built small dams that slowed down the water when the rains came. They planted 10,000 trees to improve the land and to hold the water in their roots. They built four wells to give clean drinking water to the community. They worked together to create layers of planting that made the most of every drop. Everyone worked together on the project, learning the best way to farm and to conserve the natural resources that they had. And all the way from the UK, ordinary people like you and me were supporting them by giving money to CAFOD. By 2017 the lives of Amos, Stella and the rest of their community had been transformed.

Can you think of things that our parish community does to help others, locally and overseas? (*Prompt the children with relevant examples from your own parish or tell them about the work of the SVP or other groups in the parish that you know about.*)

Can you think of ways you can help people at home and at school this coming week?

What will you do this week to help others around the world?

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

Let's pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may follow Jesus's example and reach out to help those who are in need, so that they may change their lives and build a happy future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world: that they may feel able to reach out and help those who are finding things difficult. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may always be ready to listen to the needs of others and to give them the help that is right for them, so that all people may live free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of hope, encourage us to reach out when we see people who need our help. Open our hearts so that we may work together to make the world a fairer place for all people. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write in some of the bricks how they will help others during the coming week.

Cut rectangular "bricks" out of paper or card and ask the children to write or draw on these how they will help others during the coming week. Ask the children to stick their bricks on a large sheet of paper to build a "wall of helpfulness" for the whole group.

Why not ask a member of the SVP or another parish group, or someone who helps others in their working life (eg doctor, nurse, plumber, teacher, electrician) to come to talk to the children about how they help people. You could ask more than one person so that the children can see that we can help others in many different ways.

Ask the children to tell their family all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to do at least one helpful thing every day for the next week.