

Children's liturgy – Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions

When I needed a neighbour were you there (800, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Let there be love shared among us (358, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells us that we must love our neighbour as ourselves. But what does this mean? Who is our neighbour and how do we show love for them? Let's think a bit more about this today.

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, show us how to share your love with our neighbours both here and around the world as you ask us to. Amen.

First reading (optional): Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Psalm: Psalm 17:2-4, 47, 51 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 12:28-34

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

Jesus tells us that there are two very important commandments that we should follow. Can you remember what they are?

The first is to love God. The second is to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Who is your neighbour? Can you each tell me the name of someone who is your neighbour? Why are they your neighbour?

Zin Thu Thu lives in a village in Myanmar. Everyone in her village works together to make sure everyone is cared for. They are very good neighbours. Some time ago a very big storm hit the village causing a lot of damage and hurting a lot of people. The villagers didn't know what to do. They were completely unprepared for what happened. With the help of CAFOD they were able to rebuild their

village. More importantly, they have been preparing for what to do if a bad storm ever hits again. Even in Zin Thu Thu's school they have lessons about how to keep safe in a storm.

Myanmar is a very long way from our country, so why do you think that CAFOD is helping this village? You have neighbours in your street who live near you. If something happened in your street you would probably all help each other. Can you be neighbours with someone who lives such a long way away? Is it just as important to care for people who you may never see?

All people around the world were made by God. And God loves us all very much. There is only one sun, one sky, one world. We share all these with one another. We are all part of one big global family. We are all neighbours.

Jesus asks us to love our neighbours. How do you think we can show love for our neighbours here? And how can we show love for our neighbours around the world?

To love our neighbour means to treat them as we would wish to be treated. How do you like other people to treat you?

We like others to treat us with respect, to help us when we have a problem and to share with us. So this is what we should do to our neighbours, both here and around the world.

What will you do this week to show your love for your neighbours here and around the world?

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

God made us and loves us all, and so we pray with confidence together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a good neighbour to all people, welcoming them and helping and sharing with those who are in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our neighbours throughout the world: that they may have the chance to live life to the full, with all that they need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may share what we have with our neighbours so that all people may have what they need. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of love, bless our neighbours throughout the world. Help us to grow and learn in your love and to share that love with our neighbours as Jesus taught us. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to draw in the empty room either someone/some people they think of as their neighbours or how they will love their neighbours in the coming week. They could draw or write the other option on the back of the sheet.

Ask the children to write or draw ways that they can show love for their neighbours at home and beyond. Display these around a big picture of the world, to show that we are all neighbours.

Ask the children to go home and tell their family all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a prayer for their neighbours ask them to say it together during the week. Ask them to try and do all that they can to show love for their neighbours in the coming week. Ask them to visit CAFOD's web pages for children, Kidz Zone (cafod.org.uk/kidzzone) to find out more about their global neighbours.