

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**  
**11 November 2018**  
**Mark 12:38-44 (Shorter form Mark 12:41-44)**

### **Catechist Background**

In the heavily male-oriented society of the ancient world, widows with no male provider were uniquely vulnerable. Jewish religion/society recognised this and ordered for the provision of widows through the temple. Today's gospel is often cited as an example of the widow's generosity of spirit, especially in its short form. However, in its long form we are able to see that Jesus is speaking harshly about scribes who exploit vulnerable people like this woman. As she gives over everything she has to live on, the scribes, whose living also comes from the Temple, squander what should be hers on expensive living. As the gospels are written for us, today, not other people, the challenge becomes to see where our own selfishness gets in the way of our generosity towards others. It is interesting to note that even in modern times when calls are made to provide aid for those affected by natural disasters, people who are less well-off usually give more in donations, both as a percentage of income and in real terms.

### **Setting the Scene**

For the activity below, you will need a collection basket.

Some children may need an explanation of what a 'widow' is, and most children will understand the implications of the gospel better if an explanation is given about why these widows were in a difficult position, and that women at the time of Jesus didn't have as many options available to them as they do now—they couldn't just walk out and get a job if they had no living husband.

### **We Say Sorry**

Leader: You came to teach us how to live, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You show us how to be generous, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You are always ready to forgive us, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

### **We Pray (1)**

God, protect our bodies and our minds and our spirits so that we can do the work you have given us to do in spreading your love in this world. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel:** Mark 12:38-44 (Shorter form, Mark 12:41-44)

### **Reflecting on the Reading with Children**

- What do you think life was like for the widow, who only had two pennies to live on? Why do you think she gave them over to the Temple? How might she have felt, next to people who were putting in big bags of gold coins?
- The scribes thought they were very important religious, holy people. But were they acting in a way that was in keeping with God's commandments?

How should they have been acting? How should they have been acting towards the widow we heard about?

### Response

We have all been given many blessings in our lives, and it is up to us to share them with others to spread God's joy and love around the world. Even if we don't have much money, there are other things we can share with others—our time, our friendship, our talents. Give everyone a few moments to think about what they are going to be generous with this week. Then pass the collection basket around and have each child say what their plan for generosity is this week as they use their imagination to 'place' it in the collection basket. If possible, bring this basket up with the week's regular collection to be placed at the altar.

### We Believe

Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father who has created a plentiful world with enough for everyone to live comfortably?
- Do you believe in God the Son, Jesus, who came to pull us up from our sins and challenge us to live as he did?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who is with us now and helps us to show God's love to the world today?

### We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'Jesus saw people in need around him and so we also now bring the world's needs to God...'

Leader: We pray for leaders of the Church, that they use the Church's money to do the most good for the most needy. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all governments of the world, that they work together to look after their citizens, especially the most needy. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all people who have been affected by war throughout the world. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for anybody we know who is having a particularly difficult time at the moment. We especially pray for those who have lost someone they love. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we know you have a special concern for the vulnerable in the world. Help us to open our eyes to see their needs and to know what we can do about them. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

