

Children's liturgy – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: Make me a channel of your peace (478, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: In today's gospel we hear how Jesus did something very special at a wedding in Cana, changing water into wine. Let's think about the changes we can make in our lives and in our world.

Opening prayer: God of wonder, we know that all things are possible for you. Encourage us to see that we too can change things for the better so that the world may become a fairer place for all to live. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10, alternatively Psalm 96 'All the nations will praise you...' from Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word (Year C) by Christopher Walker with Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C (OCP Publications).

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: John 2:1-11

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from that reading?

Jesus, his mother, Mary, and the disciples were at a wedding, and they ran out of wine. Mary asks Jesus to help, and so he changes some water into wine so that the celebration can continue.

How do you think that the servants must have felt when they saw that the water had turned into wine?

It must have been very surprising for them. And for the bride and bridegroom who were told that they had saved the best wine till last.

What do you think the word "miracle" means?

When we do not know how something happens, and we know that it can only have been done by God, we call it a miracle. Turning the water into wine is the first miracle that Jesus performs. Can you think of any others?

Why do you think he performed this miracle? What does it tell us about him?

This miracle shows us how special and important Jesus is. It shows us that he is the Son of God and that nothing is impossible for him.

While we cannot work miracles, we can make real changes that make a difference to our own lives or the lives of others.

Mary is seven and comes from Syria. She had to leave her home because of the war. Mary now lives in Jordan, where she can go to a puppet class with other refugees, supported by CAFOD.

In the puppet class, the children watch films, make their own puppets and talk about the difficult things they have experienced. In this way they can start to rebuild their lives.

Joseph is a member of a CAFOD group in his primary school. They meet at lunchtime to do different activities to learn about, pray and help other children around the world who live in poverty.

Joseph and his friends planned their own CAFOD fundraiser to raise money to help even more children.

In Uganda, two of Proscovia's sisters had to stop going to school so that they could collect water. The same thing almost happened to her.

Through CAFOD the well near her home was fixed, so she no longer has to go far for water. This means she can stay clean and stay in school. Proscovia is happy learning with her friends.

What changes can we make to help build a fairer world, so that people around the world have all that they need to live happy, healthy and peaceful lives?

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

We know that all things are possible to God, and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may use their power wisely so that all of their people can live free from poverty. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for people who are living in poverty throughout the world: that they may be able to change their lives for the better and that they may never lose hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be inspired to make a difference, to change our own lives and reach out to help others who are trying to change their lives too. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of life, may we be inspired by the miracles that your Son Jesus performed, to do our best to make a real difference to others around the world. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying optional illustration and on the back to draw or write one thing that they would like to change about the world.

Ask the children to tell their family all that they have heard and thought about today. Every time they drink something this week, ask them to remember the gospel story and to think of all the people around the world who do not have access to water.

Ask the children to try and do one thing during the week to make a real difference to another person, either here or overseas