

Children's liturgy – The Most Holy Trinity (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Green

Props: Display a picture of the Trinity to remind everyone of this special relationship. Coloured pens and pencils. Card, glue, and string.

Song suggestions:

Father, we adore you (*718, Laudate*)

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus will send the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples once Jesus has died and returned to heaven. Let's find out how we too can have a relationship with Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Opening prayer: God of relationships, you gave us your Son, you gave us your Spirit, may we always follow you in all that we do and say. Amen.

First reading (optional): Proverbs 8:22-31

Psalm: Psalm 8:4-9. R. v2

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 16:12-15

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

This story is part of Jesus' farewell conversation to the disciples before he dies on the cross.

Jesus says to the disciples that after he has gone, the Holy Spirit will guide them. The Holy Spirit will be their teacher and will speak to them just as Jesus did when he was alive and with them. The Holy Spirit will show the disciples what they must do and what they must say in Jesus' name.

Who teaches you and guides you? Teachers, parents, friends and family all teach us and guide us.

And the Holy Spirit is there to guide us too.

God is made up of three parts: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is what we call the Trinity. Trinity means three.

Their relationship is a relationship of being together but each having different tasks to do. This is like our families - we have mums and dads, sisters and brothers, aunts

and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins and grandparents. Whatever the size of our family, we know there are different people in our family who are of different ages, have different relationships and jobs, and live in different places, but they are all connected to us through our family bond.

Who do you live with? Do you live with lots of people or just a few? Do all your friends and family live close by or are they spread far apart?

We are also all part of one big global family that includes everyone in the world. We are all God's children. We are all special, and even though we are all different we are all equally important. We all have our own job to do depending on our talents.

We are all called to care for one another and for the earth that we live in. But how we do this depends on who we are and our own gifts.

For example, in Uganda Raphael fixes boreholes so that other people can have clean water to drink and to wash with. Thanks to the money that was raised for CAFOD in Lent 2016, Raphael now has a bicycle which means he can travel further and reach more boreholes than before.

He says: "I like my job because I know I can help my community. When I received the bike I was very happy. My first journey was to one of the broken boreholes in my parish that I couldn't get to before."

We believe that Jesus' promise to the disciples - that the Holy Spirit would be with them and guide them, is still true for all of us today and all people after us. The Holy Spirit can guide us to do what is right and to use our talents in the best way to help others.

Can you listen to the Holy Spirit in the coming week, and see how the Spirit guides you, especially in the way you treat those you live with and the members of our global family throughout the world?

Let us all do our best this week to listen to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and try to live as he asks us to.

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

We ask Jesus to be among us as we pray:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may reach out to all people with respect and love, building relationships in God's name. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for leaders in our communities: that they may work together so that all people may live in peace. Lord in your mercy...

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit and be kind, respectful and loving to all people and use our talents to make the world a better place. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Loving God, you are with us always. Send us your Spirit to teach and guide us to live in peace with each other every day. Amen.

Activity suggestions:

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of all the different members of a family doing their different jobs around the home. On the back get the children to draw a picture of their own family and/or our global family.

Ask the children to sit in silence for a moment and to reflect on a problem that they can see in our world (hunger, homelessness, violence, something else). Is there anything that they can do about it? Perhaps the Holy Spirit is prompting them to do something?

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to try to listen to how the Holy Spirit will guide them in the coming week and to use their special talents to do what they can to help others and make the world a better place.