

Children's liturgy – Pentecost (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: Red

Props: Coloured pens and pencils. Cardboard boxes to make little rooms or houses. Paper and glue.

Song suggestions:

A new commandment I give unto you. (920, *Laudate*)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells the disciples that if they love him then they will keep his commandments and that once Jesus has left them, he will send the Holy Spirit to guide and protect them. Let's find out more...

Opening prayer: All-loving God, out of love you sent your Son, Jesus Christ to save us, and out of love he sent the Holy Spirit - that we might never be alone. Thanks be to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 2:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. Cf. v.30

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 14:15-16, 23-26

Gospel reflection: Today is the day of the Holy Spirit. It is called the *Feast of Pentecost*. Pentecost means 50 in Greek as the Holy Spirit came to the disciples 50 days after Easter.

What do you remember from today's reading?

This passage is part of the last conversations Jesus has with his disciples before he dies and so he is preparing them to live without his leadership.

Jesus tells them that if they love him, they will do as he has asked them. What has Jesus asked the disciples to do?

He has asked them to love one another as he has loved them. And he says that if they do this, then God will send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever. The Holy Spirit will teach the disciples everything they need to know once Jesus has left and will remind them of Jesus' words while he was with them.

Jesus also says that if we love him, his Father will love us and make his home in us. What do you think this means?

How can you make a home ready for God? (e.g. in your hearts, lives or to prepare your own home...)

How would you make God feel welcome?

Mary Grace lives in the Philippines with her two children. One day a very powerful storm called Typhoon Haiyan came. There were very strong winds which destroyed her house, so Mary Grace and her children had nowhere safe to live.

How do you think they felt when their house was destroyed?

CAFOD works through local people around the world to help those like Mary Grace who are in need. With this help, Mary Grace's family rebuilt their home. They used stronger materials and they built the house in a special way so that if another storm comes it is less likely to fall down.

How do you think Mary Grace and her children feel now?

When it was finished, Mary Grace said: "I'm happy my children can grow up in a safe house."

Through the support of others, Mary Grace now has a new home. Can you think of any ways we can support people who do not have a home to live in?

How will you show your love for God in the coming week?

How will you make a welcoming home for God and for others in the coming week?

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

Jesus asked us to love one another in his name so we pray together...

We pray for the Church: that, inspired by the Holy Spirit, it may follow Jesus' example of love for all. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for everyone who does not have a home: that they may find ways to rebuild their lives. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and shine out for all to see. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: All powerful and ever-loving God, give us your Spirit, give us your courage, so that we may follow you and love you all the days of our lives. Let us share this love with others. Amen.

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

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Activity suggestions:

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to draw in all the things they want to put in each room (objects, people, pets etc.). Then ask them to decide where Jesus would like to be in their home and to draw him in too. Then ask them to put themselves in too.

Use the cardboard boxes to make rooms for one big house, ask the children to write on slips of paper the names of all the rooms and put these labels in the right rooms. Then in each room ask them to draw a symbol of God's love. Let them be as creative as possible in spreading love into every room.

Or you could ask the children to use the cardboard boxes to build a model house designed to withstand storms or floods or other extreme weather. Ask them to be as creative as possible in their ideas of what the house should look like and the features that it needs.

Ask the children to think about how they could help those, like Mary Grace, who have lost their homes and have to rebuild. You could find fundraising ideas to use as a group at cafod.org.uk/primary.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to do all that they can in the coming week to show their love for God, and to make a welcoming home for God in their lives. And to do one thing in the coming week to help those who are homeless either here or overseas.