

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**Pentecost, Year C**  
**9 June 2019**  
**John 14:15-16, 23b-26**

### **Catechist Background**

The Liturgy gives us two options for gospel readings in Year C; this resource uses the one which is particular to Year C and not used in Year A. Other resources for Children's Liturgy of the Word (and other adult resources) may make different choices. There is some overlap with the reading from the Sixth Sunday of Easter. You may wish to speak too about the First Reading – Acts 2 – which describes the Pentecost event.

### **Setting the Scene**

For this Sunday's activity, you will need inflated red balloons decorating your space. To prevent distraction, it would be better if they were hung up, or at least placed out of reach. Red balloons, to match the liturgical colour for the day, would be best.

### **We Say Sorry**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you free us from fear, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You give us your peace, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You have shown us the Holy Spirit, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

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

God, may we recognise that the Holy Spirit who led the first Christians continues to work in the world today.

Amen.

### **Gospel Intro**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel** John 14:15-16, 23b-26

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

- How does Jesus say that we will show that we love him?
- What will happen if we keep Jesus' commandments to love God and love one another?
- What is it that Jesus said the Holy Spirit will do?
- Does anyone know what the disciples were able to do when they had received the Holy Spirit?

### **Response**

Ask if any of the children have heard of descriptions of what it was like when the Holy Spirit came on the first Pentecost. Some children may be familiar with the

description of the Holy Spirit as being like tongues of fire or a noisy wind and find these frightening. It would be important to address these concerns. If we lived 2,000 years ago, what would we have needed fire for? It would keep us warm, it would cook our food. What is wind useful for in nature? Blowing seeds to new areas, bringing new weather, making a hot day feel slightly cooler, to name a few ideas. The Holy Spirit can have similar effects on us!

Just as we cannot normally see air but can see the proof that it is there, we don't normally see the Holy Spirit but we can see the Holy Spirit working. What would the balloons look like without any air inside? How would people be without the Holy Spirit?

### **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, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

- Do you believe in God the Father who created us and loves us?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God's Son, who came to show us how to live?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who stays with us to remind us of what Jesus has taught?

### **We Pray (2)**

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'On this feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends, we pray...'

Leader: We pray for people whose jobs are all about teaching people about Jesus. May they be good examples of keeping his commandments. Lord in your mercy,  
**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for prime ministers and presidents and all kinds of politicians, that they may make laws that help people to follow God freely. Lord in your mercy,  
**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people in the world who have never heard of Jesus. May they come to know the love and the peace of God. Lord in your mercy,  
**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for our parish community, that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit like the first Christians so that we may build up your community on earth. Lord in your mercy,  
**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we know that your Holy Spirit can change the world in all sorts of ways. Send your Spirit to be with us always. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.  
**All: Amen.**

As today is an important celebratory feast, end Children's Liturgy of the Word with a suitably festive feel. You may wish to select some joyful music and allow the children to bounce the balloons overhead, or if you are constrained by space and noise concerns, you might want to engage in some silent dancing!

