**Children’s liturgy – Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**Preparation of the worship space**

Colour: Green

Props: Coloured pens and pencils.

**Song suggestions:**

When I needed a neighbour *(888, Laudate)*

**Welcome:** Today we hear how a Good Samaritan helped a man who was hurt but how a Priest and a Levite both ignored him. Let's think about who our neighbour is and how Jesus shows us that we should help anyone in need.

**Opening prayer:** Healing God, everyone is our neighbour in Christ so let us be ready to help anyone in need, whether they live near or far from us. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Deuteronomy 30:10-14

**Psalm:** Psalm 68:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37. R. Cf. v.33

**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:** Luke 10:25-37

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

Jesus is asked who his neighbour is, and so he tells a parable.

A man is travelling to Jericho and meets some bandits who beat him up, take all his possessions and money and then leave him alone on the roadside.

Then a Priest and a Levite (The Levites were from an old religious tribe) both see the wounded man, deliberately cross over the road and walk on by. Why do you think both these men ignored the man on the ground? What does this say about them?

Then Jesus says that a Samaritan (Samaritans were from a different tribe and were not allowed to mix with the Jewish people) saw the man on the ground, felt sorry for him and went to help him.

What did the Samaritan do for the man on the ground? Why do you think the Samaritan wanted to help the injured man?

Imagine you are the man on the ground and the Samaritan is helping you now. What do you think and feel at this time?

Next, the Samaritan takes the man to an inn to rest, he pays the innkeeper and promises to return and pay any more expenses.

Jesus asks the lawyer who the better neighbour is. What do you think the answer is and why?

What does this story tell you about how we should treat people wherever they come from and whoever they are?

Jesus is saying that everyone is our neighbour, no matter where they come from, or where in the world they live, and that we should try to help everyone who needs us too.

CAFOD works with many people around the world who are poor to help them build a better, fairer future for themselves and their families. CAFOD believes that no one should be without the help that they need to live a good life. It doesn’t matter where they live, what colour they are or what religion they belong to.

Our gospel story shows us that everyone is our neighbour in Christ. How will you show love and support for your neighbours, both here and around the world in the coming week? What will you do?

**Intercessions** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or*

*you can use the suggestions below.*

Loving Father, we join together as neighbours in Christ today and we pray:

We pray for the Church: that we may all be Good Samaritans to those in need whether at home, in our local community or around the world. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that they may make fairer and better decisions so that no one is left in need or ignored when they need help. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may always be ready to help our neighbours, no matter where in the world they are. Lord, in your mercy…

**Closing prayer:** Healing God, unite us in love because we are all neighbours in Christ. Let us be like you and offer compassion and help to everyone in need. Amen.

**Activity suggestions:**

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will be a good neighbour to others.

Ask the children to role play the story of the Good Samaritan or act it out with puppets and encourage them to give words to the Priest and the Levite rather than just to be silent when they walk by.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask the children to think about how they can be Good Samaritans in the coming week - at home, at school or with people around the world. They could think about who might be ignored or neglected in their parish, their school, their neighbourhood etc and what they could do about this. Ask them to do at least one thing in the coming week to show that they are good neighbours to others.