**Children’s liturgy – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**Preparation of the worship space**

Colour: Green
Props: Coloured pens and pencils

**Song suggestions:** Be not afraid *(964, Laudate)*

**Welcome:** Today Jesus warns usthat life will be difficult and the world will face wars and disasters but that we mustn't lose hope. We must trust in God who will guide us and save us.

 **Opening prayer:** All-powerful God, nothing is greater than your love, so may we trust in you whatever difficulties and challenges we face. Amen.

 **First reading (optional):** Malachi 3:19-20

 **Psalm:** Psalm 97:5-9. R. Cf. v.9

 **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 21:5-19

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

Jesus was with his disciples in the temple. He told them that the temple would one day be destroyed and that there would be wars, earthquakes, and people hungry for food.

Can you think of places in the world today where there are wars, earthquakes and people are hungry for food?

Here is one example:

A massive earthquake hit Indonesia last year. Thousands of people died or were injured. And many more people had their homes destroyed. Umi is a grandmother whose whole village was flattened by a mudslide caused by the earthquake. When it hit, she grabbed her grandchildren and walked to find somewhere safe. She said:

“We saw the ground splitting and cracking, with mud and water coming out of the ground. We walked with our neighbours. We slept under the sky that night as we brought nothing.”

What can we do to help and support people who are affected by earthquakes, floods, droughts or other natural disasters here and overseas?

Straight after the earthquake, lots of people gave money to help the people who had been affected. Through CAFOD this money helped people with the basic things they needed to live like food, water, blankets, buckets, toothpaste and soap, cooking equipment and mosquito nets.

It is not just enough to give people money and food when this happens though. We also have to help them to prepare so that the next time something like this happens they are ready for it. How do you think we can do this?

In Indonesia people are being helped to rebuild their homes so that they will be stronger if another earthquake hits. They are also having training to learn more about what to do and how to stay safe if it happens again. This means that next time they will be more prepared.

Jesus told the disciples not to be afraid. He promised that he would be with them always and that they wouldn't be harmed if they put their trust in him.

Jesus is with us always, even in the hardest times. Often Jesus comes to us in the people who help us.

Next time you hear about an earthquake, flood or drought on the news what will you do to help the people affected? How will you help them to know that they haven’t been forgotten and that Jesus is always with them?

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

We pray together:

We pray for the Church: that it may support and welcome all, especially those among us who are poor. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our brothers and sisters in every country: that they may know that they are not forgotten as we do our best to help our neighbours around the world. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that with God’s help we may support each other in all things, especially when life is difficult. May we give each other hope. Lord in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** Jesus, help us to put our faith and trust in you at all times. May we not be afraid but instead believe that you will always keep us safe. Amen.

**Activity suggestions**

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying optional illustration.

Find out more about CAFOD’s work in emergency situations at cafod.org.uk/emergencies and share some of this with the children

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to think about what they can do to help and support people locally or around the world who face flooding, earthquakes or other natural disasters.