

# Thirteenth Sunday of the Year

## Make Jesus welcome

### INTRODUCTION

Imagine if you met Jesus today – if he suddenly arrived at your house and rang the doorbell. When you realised who this 'stranger' really was, what would you do and say to welcome him?

Jesus wants us to treat everyone as we would treat him.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

As the candles are lit, read this passage aloud: (cf *Proverbs 4:18-19*)

The path to our heavenly Father is like the sun rising, getting brighter and brighter as we draw closer to God.

Those who turn away from his love, follow a path as dark as the night, and they stumble and fall as they cannot see the way.

### SORRY

Jesus taught us that if we are full of forgiveness for others then our heavenly Father will be full of forgiveness for us. Help us to remember this as we say the prayer of God's family together. (All hold hands for the *Our Father*):

Our Father who art in heaven . . .

### GLORIA

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2: *Light up our hearts.*

### GOSPEL (cf *Matthew 10:40-42*)

Jesus said to his apostles: 'Anyone who makes you feel welcome in their homes, is welcoming me, for I am with you always. Anyone who treats you kindly and shares their food and drink with you, is sharing their goodness with me and my Father who sent me. However small or great their act of kindness, they will be rewarded for their goodness.'

### DISCUSSION

What does it mean to 'welcome' someone? – It means to greet someone with pleasure and friendliness, and to make them feel that you are pleased to see them.

How do you welcome anyone who comes to visit your home? – If it is someone we have just met or do not know very well, we might shake hands and say hello. If it is a relative or a good friend, we might give them a kiss or a hug to

welcome them. If they are children, we could also make them welcome by sharing toys or letting them join in a game we are playing.

Would you offer a visitor something to eat or drink? – When we invite someone to share a meal or even just a cup of coffee, we let them know that we want to spend some time with them. Jesus always had 'time' to spend with others, even when he was feeling tired. Remember the story when the disciples tried to stop the little children from coming to see Jesus, but Jesus welcomed them with open arms and spent some time with them.

In today's Gospel, what message did Jesus give us? – Whenever we welcome anyone and treat them kindly, then we are welcoming Jesus. Remember how at baptism we all received the gift of God's Spirit? Because of this gift, each one of us and every person that we meet has the light of Christ burning inside and so we should treat them as we would treat Christ.

St Matthew tells us how Jesus once said: (cf *Matthew 25:35-40*)

I was hungry and you gave me food to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was a stranger  
and you welcomed me in your home.  
My clothes were in tatters  
and you gave me your own,  
I was ill and you took care of me.  
When you did any of these things for others,  
you did it for me.

Jesus was trying to tell us that we could not ignore or send anyone away without doing the same to him!

How do you feel when you have acted kindly towards someone? Does it make you feel good inside?

Our reward for being kind and loving towards someone else is a wonderful feeling of happiness glowing inside us. At that very moment the light of the Spirit is truly burning brightly inside us!

### ACTIVITY

Make and cut out circles with scenes of people making others feel welcome. Arrange these around the central figure of Jesus.

### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus help us to love and care for everyone by remembering that each person we meet has the spirit of God living inside them.

Help us to welcome others knowing that we are really welcoming you.