

## Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

### Be like children

#### INTRODUCTION

Sometimes grown ups seem very clever and to know all the answers. Today Jesus tells us that it wasn't always the clever people who first understood him, often it was those who had child-like hearts.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

As the candles are lit, say together:  
May the light of Jesus shine in our lives.

#### SORRY

If we have made God feel sad or disappointed with us this week, we ask for his forgiveness as we sing our sorry song together. Sing Sorry Song 1:  
*Dear Lord Jesus hear our prayer, Lord.*

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5:  
*We have come to hear you.*

#### GOSPEL (cf Matthew 11:25-30)

One day Jesus said, 'Praise be to you, Father, for you have not chosen to reveal yourself to the clever and wise, but to people who see the world through child-like eyes. You have shared your wisdom with those filled with innocence and simplicity.' Then Jesus said, 'Come to me with your worries and troubles and I will take care of you. I am kind and gentle and I will help you to find real peace.'

#### DISCUSSION

If a creature from outer space came to earth and asked you to describe what a young child or baby was like, what would you tell him?

Among other things young children are:

- dependent on others to look after their needs and take care of them.
- completely trusting. They have total trust in their parents and family to care for them and keep them from harm.
- honest. They do not know how to lie or deceive. When they are happy and content they let you know by laughing and smiling, when they are miserable or upset they let you know by crying loudly!
- loving. They return all the love they receive. They enjoy being hugged and cuddled, and

feeling secure in their family's love.

- innocent. They are pure and free from any wickedness. They have no bad thoughts or unkind feelings.
- uncomplicated. Simple things keep them happy and contented: a warm bed, a smiling face, a bottle full of milk!

Jesus once said, 'Do not keep the little children away from me! Only those who are like them will enter the Kingdom of God.' (cf Matthew 19:14)

Did Jesus expect us to be children forever?

None of us stays a child forever, each of us will grow up to become an adult! Jesus was telling us that he wanted us to keep the 'child-like' qualities of goodness, as we become grown-ups. Remember some of the features of a small child: trust, honesty, love, innocence and simplicity. If we have these qualities as children of God, we will stay close to God's love and never wander from his friendship. With him beside us we can find the path to everlasting happiness in God's kingdom.

What did Jesus tell us to do with our cares and troubles? - Just as a young child has complete faith and trust in its parents, so we can rely on God. We can share our problems and worries and know that we can depend on him to love and take care of us and our needs.

What must we do to find our way to the Kingdom of God? - We must try to live as Jesus did - with honesty and openness and a deep love for God and our neighbour. It is not easy and we will often make mistakes. But God is our Father and we are his children. We can trust him to take care of us and show us the way.

#### ACTIVITY

Either give each child a colouring-in picture or make one large picture of Jesus embracing the children. Add the caption. 'To enter God's kingdom you must become like a little child.'

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER (cf Psalm 34:11-14)

Listen to me little ones, and you will please God.  
If your lives are to be filled  
with happiness and joy,  
turn away from wickedness and lies;  
surround yourselves with goodness  
and try with all your hearts  
to share the peace of God with others.