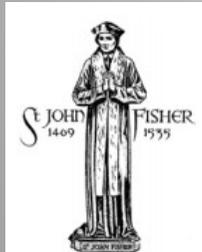


CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sunday 12th July

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St John Fisher
Catholic Church,
Perivale

OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross



And our Opening Prayer

*God Almighty Father,
your light shows us the way to Jesus.
Help us to follow him always.
Amen*

INTRODUCTION

The seed is looking for good soil, where it may produce lots of fruit.

Dear children, today's gospel is quite long, but it is still very important for us to listen to what Jesus is telling us.

Today, He speaks to a crowd of people who are following him. He tells them a parable.

Do you know what a parable is?

A parable is like a story, a tale.

Maybe, your parents used to or still read you a story before you go to sleep, as my parents did when I was a little child.

The story may not be real, but there is always a lesson, a truth that is important for us to learn.

So, let us listen carefully to the Gospel today.

TODAY'S GOSPEL



Say the Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia,
We open our hearts to let Jesus' love grow
and shine out in the darkness,
so others will know.
Alleluia, alleluia

Read today's Gospel

(Matthew 11:25-30)

A reading from the Good News given to us by St Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord

A crowd had gathered to listen to Jesus, and because there were so many, Jesus preached to them from a boat. He began to teach them, using parables to help them to understand his message.

'One day a farmer went out to sow some seeds in his field. As he scattered the seeds some fell on the stony path at the edge of the field, where flocks of hungry birds flew down and gobbled them up. Some seeds fell on rocky ground where, although they sprouted, the soil was too shallow for their roots, and the baking hot sun shrivelled them up. Other seeds fell where weeds were growing, and the weeds choked them until they died. Some of the seeds landed on the farmer's richest soil and grew into strong healthy plants.'

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

In today's Gospel, we heard that a huge crowd had gathered around to listen to Jesus. Many people were very interested and attracted by the kind of person Jesus was. They were following him for many different reasons.

Some of them out of curiosity, others because they had heard many things about him, others because they were hoping to receive something from him.

Why are you following Jesus? What would you like to ask him?

With the parable today, Jesus is asking the people that are listening, to think about what type of follower they are? He wants to know why they are following him.

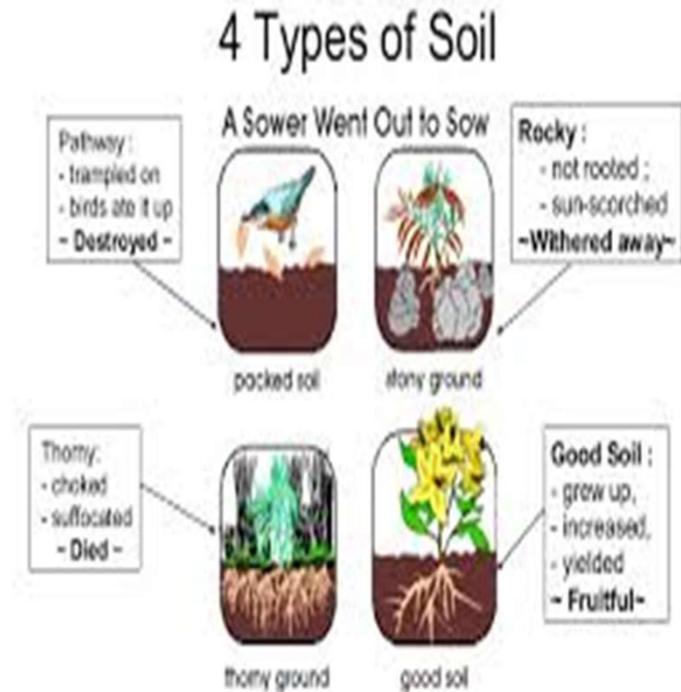
In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of four different types of soil?

Can you remember what they are?

The first one is the edge of a road, a stony path.

The second is rocky ground.

The third is thorny soil, full of weeds, and the last one is good rich soil.



Why are these different types of soil important?

Jesus today is telling us a parable, a story. In his parables, Jesus always used something that people could recognise and knew about. Today he uses seed and soil.

He uses these things to help us work out what kind of follower we are.

In the first example in the Gospel, the seed falls on the stony path, on the side of the road. There is hardly any soil here, so the seed does not grow. This is like someone who hears what Jesus is saying but they are not really listening properly, so they do not grow to love Jesus.

In the second example, the seed falls on the rocks. There is a little bit of soil, so the seed starts to grow very quickly but there is not enough and it starts to die. This is like someone who hears what Jesus is saying to them and starts off very excited about it, but then gives up listening to him because it is too difficult.

In the third example, the seed falls in between the thorns and the weeds. It becomes surrounded by bad plants that end up hurting it and stop it from growing. This is like someone who hears what Jesus says but instead of living in the way Jesus wants them to, they go after other things; they want lots of money and all the best things.

In the last example, the seed falls on lovely rich soil and starts to grow into beautiful plants. This is like someone who hears what Jesus is asking and lives their life as he asks them to.

To produce beautiful plants, soil needs to be looked after, just like the rich soil. You have to give it special food, pull out the weeds and protect the seed that you have planted. It is hard work and takes time.

You are like the seeds that will one day grow into beautiful plants.

For you to grow, you need food, sleep and care. You also need another type of food which is the **Word of God**.

If you concentrate and listen carefully to what Jesus is telling you and do the good things he asks you to do, then you will grow into a good follower of Jesus.



CLOSING PRAYER



*Loving Father,
help our love for you and for one another to grow,
and give us the courage to do as you ask.
We ask this through Christ your Son.
Amen*



ACTIVITY



Crouch down on the ground as small as possible, like a tiny seed. When you are ready, imagine you are like a plant starting to grow. Start to get up really slowly and then reach up as tall as possible. Now imagine every time you listen to Jesus you too can get bigger and stronger and become a better follower of Jesus.

Try planting some seeds or a tiny plant

Ask mum or dad to help you plant some seeds or a little plant. Put it in some good soil, look after it and watch it grow over the summer.

Try planting something in very little soil, or in between some stones or maybe some sand if you have some, and see the difference.

Acknowledgements

Inspiration for this lesson taken from the books 'The Liturgy of the Word with Children' by Katie Thompson and <<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>>