

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME (YEAR A) – 28 SEPTEMBER 2014



Preparation of the worship space:

Colour: green

Props: paper plates, colouring pens, pencils or crayons, stickers

Song suggestions: Bread for the world (625, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about two sons who are both asked to help their father. Let's think a bit about how we can help other people today. Let's also think about how we listen to what God asks of us and how we can do what is asked.

Opening prayer: God of love, open our ears to listen to your word. Lead us to help one another and to live our lives as you ask us to. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

First reading (optional): Ezekiel 18:25-28

Psalm: Psalm 24:4-9 R. v.6

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: Matthew 21:28-32

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

A man had two sons and he asked them both to go out and work in the vineyard. What did the sons say?

The first son said he would not go. But what happened next? He changed his mind and went as his father had asked him.

The second son said he would go. But what happened next? He did not go out to the vineyard.

Jesus asks a question about this story. Which one of the two sons did what his father asked him to do? The first son or the second son?

The first son went and did what his father asked, even though at first he did not want to.

Can you think of a time when someone asked you to do something? Did you do it? Or did you just say you would do it?

How did you feel afterwards? And how do you think the person who asked for your help felt?

What will you do the next time someone asks you for help? How will you help other people in the coming week?

Why do you think Jesus tells this story? What is he trying to teach us?

The man in the story is God. And we are all God's children. So Jesus is trying to tell us that we should listen to what God asks of us and then go and do what is asked.

It is not enough just to say that we will follow God in our lives. We actually have to go and do what is asked. We have to live our lives as God wants us to.

How do you think we can do that today?

God calls us to care for one another as we are all brothers and sisters. We are all part of the same global family. God asks us to love one another, to help each other when we are in need and to share what we have so that everyone has enough.

God created the world with enough food for everyone to eat. But some of us, one in eight people around the world, go to bed hungry every night, because we are not all sharing fairly. This doesn't make sense. It's silly.

It's silly that there is enough food for everyone, but still people go hungry. And it's silly that while there is so much hunger, here in the UK we waste lots of food. We throw away 4.2 million tonnes of edible food and drink from our own homes. This is the equivalent of more than 200,000 full double-decker buses.

Do you think this is what God wants? So what do you think God asks us to do about this?

God calls us to share what we have and to do all that we can to help each other to get enough to eat.

Our food system is silly, but together we can get serious about doing something to change it.

How will you share what you have to help make sure all God's children have enough to eat?

How will you show this week that you are doing what God asks of you?

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

We know that God loves us and so we have the courage to pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may never forget people who are poor and may make decisions for the good of all our brothers and sisters. Lord, in your mercy...

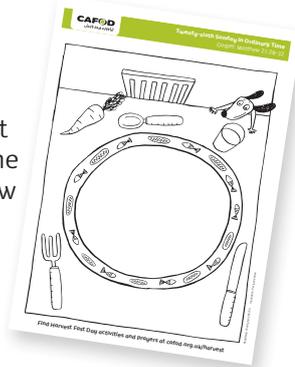
We pray for all our sisters and brothers throughout the world: that they may have the chance to get their fair share of the food God has given for us all. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, our families and our friends: that we may share what we have with others, especially those who are poor or in need. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Generous God, we thank you for all you have given us. Help us to live as you ask us to and to share what we have so all people may have enough to eat. Amen.

Activity suggestions:

- Download the accompanying optional illustration (available at cafod.org.uk/harvest) and ask the children to colour it in. See below for ideas of how they could decorate their plate.
- Ask the children to design a silly menu. Ask them to decorate a paper plate, or the plate on the illustration sheet, with pictures of the silliest combination of ingredients they can think of – for example sherbet and baked beans or ketchup on cornflakes. Or ask them to write a recipe for a silly meal. And to think about how silly it is that so many people go hungry when there is enough food in the world for everyone. Ask them to think about how they can help make sure that everyone has enough to eat.



- Order the Harvest Fast Day stickers and the poster for primary schools to encourage the children to get involved in the Big Silly Share with CAFOD this Harvest. These are available to order from shop.cafod.org.uk
- To illustrate what it means that one in eight go hungry, give the children stickers numbered from 1 to 8. All those children with an 8 sticker have to stand up at the front. Explain that now you're going to have a pretend picnic. But that the children at the front can't join in. This is because one in eight people around the world go hungry. Ask the children at the front how this makes them feel. Ask the children with stickers 1-7 what they think? Would they be willing to let all the children share in their picnic?
- Share our Harvest film with the children which is available at cafod.org.uk/primary to show the children what is silly about our food system and what we can do to make a serious change.
- Ask the children to listen carefully to all that they are asked to do in the next week. And to try to always help people when they ask. Ask them to think about how they can share what they have with people who are in need, and how they can help make sure that everyone has enough to eat.
- Ask the children to sit quietly for a few moments and listen to God. What is God asking them to do? Ask them to try and follow what God wants for them this week.
- Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to try to do what God wants them to do this week and to share what they have with others. Encourage them to organise a silly event in their class or at home to help raise money for CAFOD and get serious about making a difference. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/primary

Children's liturgy resources for every Sunday are available at cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

Sign up for email reflections on each Sunday's gospel, to help you reflect as you prepare for children's liturgy, at cafod.org.uk/pray