

Building community, nurturing belonging

Children's Liturgy for Sunday 16 February 2020



Suggested Songs:

- The Kingdom of heaven – Mike Anderson
- Many are the lightbeams – Olle Widestrand
- God has chosen me – Bernadette Farrell
- And all the people said Amen – Matt Maher

Suggested Resources:

- Activity sheets
- Pens
- Coloured felt tips/pencils
- Parish Newsletter

Introduction

Today we are thinking about how we can welcome people to our community and how we can include all people in our church so that we can help our communities grow and be stronger.

What does the word community mean? (For example: a group of people in the same place who share things in common)

Can you give examples of some of the communities you belong to?

Some communities that you belong to may have a set of rules that need to be followed. In today's reading which is from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching people about the rules of the Kingdom of Heaven. He is teaching people that we should do more than just follow the rules, we should be trying every day to live a good life, to work with others and to help build God's kingdom.

Penitential Rite

For the times we have not helped our community, at home or at school.

Leader: Lord Have Mercy

Children all say: Lord Have Mercy

For the times we have been un-co-operative or made someone feel left out.

Leader: Christ Have Mercy

Children all say: Christ Have Mercy

May we live peacefully, always walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

Leader: Lord Have Mercy

Children all say: Lord Have Mercy

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Shortened Version)

"I tell you, then, that you will be able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven only if you are more faithful than the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees in doing what God requires.

"You have heard that people were told in the past, 'Do not commit murder; anyone who does will be brought to trial.' But now I tell you: whoever is angry with his brother will be brought to trial, whoever calls his brother 'You good-for-nothing!' will be brought before the Council, and whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to the fire of hell. So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back to offer your gift to God.

"You have also heard that people were told in the past, 'Do not break your promise, but do what you have vowed to the Lord to do.' But now I tell you: do not use any vow when you make a promise. Do not swear by heaven, for it is God's throne;

"Just say 'Yes' or 'No' – anything else you say comes from the Evil One."



In this Gospel Jesus is helping people to do better in life. For example the rule is to not commit murder but Jesus takes this further and says people should not even hate each other. Jesus also talks about breaking your promises, it is better not to make a promise at all than to break it.

What do you think about these rules?

To help to build community we need to live peacefully together, as Jesus teaches us. Here are some dilemmas that you may experience. For each one say how you can help and why:

1. You see someone new come into children's liturgy, they haven't been to church for many years. What do you do?
2. You see someone who is crying. How can you help?
3. You do really well in a test at school, but all your friends have done badly. Would you boast about how well you did or would you help your friends to do better next time?
4. Your friend asks you to their house to play when you should be going to church, do you play with your friend or go to church?
5. Your best friend steals something from you but later gives it back. Would you forgive your friend or would you not be friends anymore?
6. Two of your friends are arguing with each other. How can you help them?
7. You get teased for going to Mass on a Sunday and believing in God. What do you do?

Suggested Responses:

- Create a list of rules for your own parish
- Create different role plays which show how to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven
- Complete activity sheet (copies of the newsletter are needed to accompany this activity)



Prayer

We pray for the help we need in our daily lives to welcome the stranger, to live in peace and to tell others about how great God is. We ask for the courage to live our lives in a way that shows people that we are followers of Jesus Christ.

We pray for this community of [name of church] Help the members in our own community to work together to be the Church we are called to be.

We ask all this through Christ our Lord

Amen

Synod Prayer

Father, we thank you
for the love you have shown us
in the gift of Jesus, your Son.
We thank you for the gift of the Church,
through which you show us
that you are always with us
and are always at work in our lives.

As we journey together to Synod 2020
help us to become the Church that you are calling us to be.
May your Holy Spirit be powerfully
at work among us.

Strengthen each of us and guide Francis, our Pope
and Malcolm, our Archbishop.

Help us to respond
to the challenges of our times in new ways
to bring your love to all our sisters and brothers.

We make this prayer
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

AMEN

St John Henry Newman: **Pray for us!**



Building community, nurturing belonging

Make a list of all the good things about your church community

Look at your parish newsletter. What are some of the groups in your church community? Write them down here:

How can you welcome people into your church?

Some people may find it difficult to get to Church (For example if they have a disability or dementia). How can we help them to be part of the community?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Synod 2020 Activity Sheet

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Draw a poster or design a leaflet to advertise your parish