

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 12 July 2020

Preparation

If possible:

- Arrange candles, a crucifix and a Sunday missal or Gospel on a table.
- Get a pot, soil and some quick growing seeds like beans or sunflowers ready to plant

Introduction

Today is the fifteenth Sunday in ordinary time. In the Gospel today, Jesus tells the people a parable by the sea. A parable is a story of everyday events that has a special meaning. See if you can work out the special meaning of this parable.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

If possible arrange a Candle, a Crucifix and a Sunday Missal or Gospel on a table. An adult lights the candles.

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Especially when our daily routines are different just now. Have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

Lead the children in singing the "Sorry Song".

We are sorry, *(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)*
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria (Sung)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,

we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

(Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It')

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew

All say "Glory to You Oh Lord" while making a cross on your forehead, on your lips and on your heart.

Matthew 13:1-9 refer to:

[https://cafod.org.uk>Education>Children'sLiturgy](https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children'sLiturgy)

The Gospel of the Lord

All say : Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Ask children what they heard in this week's Gospel. Acknowledge and encourage them.

Ask the following questions:

How did the farmer sow his seeds? Do you think that is a good way to sow seeds? What happened to the seeds?

How do we normally plant seeds in our garden?

- We ensure we have a pot that is the right size, soil that is fresh and appropriate for the seed we are planting and ensure that the plant has plenty of water and light to grow. We know that this will give a seed the best chance of growing. We plant seeds in rich soil and give them the best chance of growing into healthy plants.

What did Jesus mean when he talked about the seed and the soil in this parable?

- The seed represents God's word and soil represents our hearts:
 - the paths and rocky soil is like people whose hearts are not open to God's word
 - the thorns are like people who have given up on God
 - the rich soil is like the hearts of people who listen to God.

Jesus wants us to keep our hearts open to hear God's word, being like rich soil, and follow his teachings.

If possible plant the seed and encourage the children to think about their hearts being open to God's word as they nurture the seed to grow. If you don't plant a seed, remind the children as they watch flowers blooming and trees growing and getting greener, they can think about their hearts being open and following God's word.

Another idea is to have the children pretend to be a seed and grow. Ask them to kneel down as small as the possible on the ground and then stand up and stretch up as high as they can thinking about their hearts being open to God's word as they grow tall in his love.

Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, we pray that especially in our church community our hearts may be open to the word of God.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Lord, we pray that we may truly listen to your word and hear what we should do to follow you.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Lord, we pray for our friends and family, that they are open to your words and feel your love each and every day.

Lord in Your Mercy
-Hear our Prayer

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, you look after the earth and bless it with sunshine and rain to help the soil grow all kinds of crops. The river of Your love never runs dry.

For Parents or Carers reading this at home, there are some further resources on the Archdiocesan website.