

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – 23rd August 2020

Preparation

- If possible arrange candles, a crucifix and a Gospel or Sunday Missal on a table.

Introduction

Today we learn how Jesus left the Disciple Peter in charge of the Church on Earth.

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

Lead the children in singing the “Sorry Song”.

We are sorry,
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”.

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) **as we say together “Glory to You, O Lord.”**

Matthew 16:13-20

<https://cafod.org.uk>Education.Children'sLiturgy>

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say: **“The Gospel of the Lord”**.

All reply: **“Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ”**. Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

In today's Gospel Jesus asked the Disciples who people said he was. How did they respond to him?

Some said people thought he was a prophet or John the Baptist.

Jesus then asked them- "who do you say I am?"

Peter responded by saying "You are the Son of God." Jesus told Peter that he was blessed as God had made this known to him and because of this Jesus told Peter that he was to lead the Church on Earth.

Peter was the first leader of our Church. We have a name for this person. Can you remember? That's right- the Pope. Discuss this role with the children and the fact that this legacy began with Jesus himself and is still carried on today with Pope Francis who is the current leader.

Jesus asked the disciples who they said He was. He wanted them to know what to say if they were asked. He wanted them to speak the truth to others. If we are asked who Jesus is, do we know how to respond? He is indeed the Son of God, our Saviour.

If we are asked who we are, how do we respond?

We may say what our names are or that we are a son or daughter or a friend or cousin. We should also respond as followers of Jesus. This is the role that shapes our daily lives in the things we do and say and the way we treat others.

How can we show God's love to others this week?

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Dear God,

Thank you for Your love and mercy.

Help us to always show your love to others through our words and actions.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **"Hear our prayer."**

Dear Jesus,

We know that you are the Son of God. Thank you for always loving us. Help us to live as your followers and share your love with others.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to always show your love to others in the same way you led the disciples. May we continue to pray also for our Holy Father, the Pope as he leads your church on earth.

Amen