

## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C – 8th Sept 2019

### Introduction

In today's Gospel Jesus talks to a large crowd of people telling them that if they want to be His disciples, they must be willing to love Him above everyone even themselves and that they must 'carry their cross.'

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

### 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, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)  
In Your love,  
Help us to do better,  
Help us to be kinder.  
Forgive us,  
Forgive us.

### Gloria (sung)

Choose a children's version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children's Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another CL resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Jesus said

Live like this

To be my disciple (same tune as above)

Love me above all others

Accept your cross

Follow me

### **Gospel**

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 115. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year C)

Luke 14:25 -30,33

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke".

**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."**

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**

What happened in today's Gospel?

(Jesus told people what they must do to be His disciples).

What did Jesus say they (and we) must do to be His disciple?

(Love Him above everyone and everything and accept our "cross")

Do you think this sounds like it's an easy thing to do?

(No. It's sometimes hard to do the right thing, but if we really love Jesus we must try to be good)

What does Jesus mean by saying we must be willing to accept our cross?

(He means that things will not always be easy, and that sometimes doing the right thing will mean that we may have to make hard choices. We may, for example, upset our friends if they want us to do something which we know is wrong and we have to make the right choice and tell them that it is wrong and that we won't do it and that they should be good instead).

What has Jesus promised us if we are good disciples?

(He has promised to help us keep on trying to be good and that ultimately He will bring us safely to be with Him in Heaven where we will be truly happy forever).

## **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 Jesus,

You have asked that we love one another as you loved us. Help us to be strong witnesses to your love daily by our actions and words.

**Lord, in Your mercy.**

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

Dear Jesus,

Help us always to turn to You in prayer for help to do the right thing and to say sorry for the times when we fail to be “good disciples”.

**Lord, in Your mercy.**

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

### **Closing Prayer**

Let us pray as Jesus taught us to pray as we say together the “Our Father”.

“Our Father, who art in heaven ....

Now ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.