

Twenty Sixth Sunday of Year C – 29th September 2019

Introduction

Today's Gospel reminds us of our responsibility to help those who are poor, sick, or less fortunate than ourselves.

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.
God of love
You love the poor,
You are our treasure,
The one true treasure,
We adore you!
Alleluia. (same tune as above)

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on pages 121-123 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year C)

Luke 16: 19-31

"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

In today's Gospel, we hear about two people who had very different lives. Who were they? (The rich man and a very poor man called Lazarus).

What do we know about Lazarus? What happened to him?

(Discuss with the children. He was very poor, homeless in fact. He sat outside the rich man's house to beg for food. He had no food, no money, nothing. He was malnourished, ill and covered in sores. Even the dogs took pity on him and tried to help by licking his sores. He would have been happy to eat scraps of food from the rich man's house. He died and went straight to Heaven).

What do we know about the rich man? What happened to him?

(Discuss with the children. We don't know his name, but he was very rich and dressed in fine clothes and feasted every day. He knew about Lazarus (he even knew his name), but he was not interested in helping him. The rich man died and instead of going to Heaven he went to Hell. This meant that he was now suffering).

What did the rich man ask?

(He wanted Abraham to send Lazarus to bring him some cool water. When Abraham told him this was not possible and reminded him of how he had ignored Lazarus when he was suffering, he then asked that Lazarus be sent to warn his five brothers, so that they would not behave badly like him and end up suffering in Hell when they died).

What did Abraham say about sending Lazarus to warn the brothers?

(He said if they didn't listen to Moses and the prophets they would not even listen if someone who had died came back to warn them to change their ways).

How does Jesus want us to treat each other?

(Discuss that Jesus wants us to care for each other. He wants us to share with those who are less well off than ourselves. Even as children we can notice if someone is upset, being bullied, has no friends, or has no toys and we can help, by being welcoming and sharing what we have).

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,

Help us always to be kind and caring and to be generous with all the gifts that You have given us.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer

Let us pray to Mary our Heavenly Mother to help us to be good and honest as we say:

“Hail Mary, Full of Grace....

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