

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – 25th January 2020

Introduction

Today we hear about how fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) left everything they had and everyone they loved to follow Jesus.

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,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder. (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
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,
From now on
You will gather people, (same tune as above)
You will gather people!
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 73 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

Matthew 4:18-23,17

"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."**

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

Why did Jesus ask the Fishermen to leave everything and go with them? (He said they would be 'Fishers of Men.')

What did Jesus mean by this? (He meant that they were to help Him spread the word of God in different places. They would be special helpers to Him)

What do you think their families and friends thought when they left and did as Jesus asked? (Mixed- maybe proud, but more so shocked, confused, some sadness that they were leaving, disbelief)

When they left to help Jesus they became his closest friends, what do we call people who follow Jesus? (Disciples. Discuss with the children who else can become a disciple.)

Sometimes, as followers of Jesus, we stay where we are and don't leave our towns. Other times people do leave. Can you think of anyone who does? (Maybe Missionaries, Priests and Religious)

We are also called to follow Jesus all these years later. We do this through the way we live our lives Discuss with the children some of the things they can do to show they too are Disciples.

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 giving us the courage and strength to follow you. Help us to always show our love for you by the way we live as your Disciples.

Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Dear Jesus, Thank you calling us to Our Father in Heaven. May we also know your love in our lives and share this love with our friends and family.

Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your unending love for us. May our lives be examples of that love to others as we continue the work of your first Disciples.

Amen.

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