

## **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – 29th January 2023**

### **Introduction**

Today we hear about how Jesus went up a mountain with His disciples to a quiet place. Here Jesus told them about the people who make God happy and how if we are like them- God will bless us!

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 Frère 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,

Blessed are you!

When you are humble, (same tune as above)

When you are merciful,

God will bless you!

Alleluia.

### **Gospel**

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 75 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

Matthew 5:1-12

"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 take His disciples up the mountain? (He wanted to be in a quiet place where He could teach them).

What did Jesus say to His disciples?(He spoke about the kind of people that God was happy with and said that God would bless them. Remind

the children that when Jesus spoke about these people He was talking about all of us when we act in ways that are good and pleasing to God).

Can you remember any of the things that make God happy with us?

Discuss with the children some of the examples in the Gospel – such as being merciful (kind), peacemakers ( getting along with others and not fighting or quarrelling),being humble (not proud or showing off) etc.

Also, maybe mention to remember that God knows when we are sad and will comfort us.

### **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, May we 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.

