

## **Seventh Sunday of Easter Year A – 24th May 2020**

### **Preparation**

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

### **Introduction**

Today is the Seventh Sunday in the Easter Season. In the Gospel today, during the Last Supper, Jesus prays for His friends the Apostles who share this special meal with Him.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

An adult lights the candles.

### **Penitential Act**

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Especially when our daily routines are different just now. Have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

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.

*(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)*

### **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. John**

All say "Glory to You Oh Lord" while making a cross on your forehead, on your lips and on your heart.

John 17:1-11 (refer to) <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children's> liturgy

**Finish by saying: The Gospel of the Lord**

**All reply : Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Lead a Discussion on the Gospel**

What did Jesus do in today's Gospel?

(Jesus prayed to His Father in Heaven for His friends the Apostles. Explain to the children that this took place the night before Jesus died. They were having a meal together – The Last Supper)

The focus of today's Gospel is on prayer (and the gift of eternal life).

What help did Jesus ask His Father to give the Apostles?

(Jesus asked His Father to “keep them safe”, and also that they “may be one”)

Jesus is our friend, so He also says this prayer for us. We often pray to God to “keep us safe”.

( You might want to ask the children at the moment especially during the Coronavirus what they ask from God?

- to keep them safe and healthy
- to keep their family and friends safe and healthy
- to look after people who care for the sick, the elderly, those who work to feed the country and anyone who must go to work just now

Then ask the children what they think Jesus means when He prays to His Father that we “may be one”?

(Jesus wants us to be united with each other and also with God.  
Ask the children how we can show that we are united with each other?  
Being united, means showing our love for each other as Jesus has shown us:

- Help each other
- Be kind and share especially with those who have less than we have
- Be good and try and do some school work (or help a little brother or sister with school work)
- Go for a walk, cycle, or play together with your family
- Have fun together with friends and family (maybe at this time by telephone – speak to a grandparent and share your news or draw a picture for them)
- Pray together as a family (In this month of May especially remember to pray to our Mother Mary in Heaven).

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

Dear Jesus, We ask for Your intercession as we pray today as You did to Our Heavenly Father to keep us safe from all harm.

Lord in Your Mercy  
-Hear our Prayer

Lord Jesus, Help us to show Your love to others by being kind, thoughtful and caring.

Lord in Your Mercy  
-Hear our Prayer

Dear Jesus, We ask You to help all of our Priests. We pray that You re-open our churches so that we can be united as Your family at Your altar very soon.

Lord in Your Mercy  
-Hear our Prayer

Ask the children if they have anyone they would like to pray for:

Lord in Your Mercy  
-Hear our Prayer

## **Closing Prayer**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*For Parents or Carers reading this at home, there are some further resources on the Archdiocesan website including some craft ideas to prepare in advance to help with reflection or enjoy afterwards.*