

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A – 16th February 2020

Introduction

Jesus tells His disciples, that as His followers we are all expected to forgive each other from our hearts and “not stay angry with anyone”. Then we will be living lives that are pleasing to God.

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,
to everyone:
“Make peace with your brothers.
Make peace with your sisters.
Go then in peace
and worship God.” (same tune as above)

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 79 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

Matthew 5:17,20,21-22a,23-24

"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

What did Jesus say the disciples must do if they (and we) want to go to Heaven?

(Jesus said they must "behave better than the scribes and Pharisees". They must not think themselves good because they have avoided very obvious public sins such as murder. They (and we) must be "better than that."

Why did Jesus say "Don't even stay angry with anyone?"

What else did Jesus say?

Discuss with the children:

Have we ever been angry with someone? Is it easy to say bad things about them when we are angry? What should we do?

We need to forgive each other from our heart, make peace with each other, not remain angry and insult, hurt, or spread stories or say bad things to others about anyone. We must not even think these things about the person who has made us angry as God can see what is in our

minds and hearts. This is not easy, but when we pray to God, and when we say sorry to God in the sacrament of Confession or receive Jesus in the sacrament of Holy Communion, we receive grace from God to strengthen us and help us to be good and to come closer to God and love both God and our neighbour more.

When we forgive others from our hearts, we are truly pleasing to God!

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 Your love and forgiveness.
Help us to always show our love for You by the way we live our daily lives.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Dear Jesus,

Through Your grace,
Help us to forgive others as You forgive us.

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.