

Corpus Christi- Year A – 11th June 2023

Introduction

Today we celebrate Corpus Christi – the Body and Blood of Christ. We focus on the wonderful gift that Jesus has given us by giving us Himself in the Eucharist.

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, (sung to tune of Frère Jacques)

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 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. (1)

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 69 Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

John 6:35,51-56

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John".

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

Can anyone remember the name of today's feast day? (Corpus Christi). Ask if anyone knows what this means. Explain that this is the Latin name – Latin being the traditional language of the RC church- the Latin words meaning "The Body of Christ."

When did Jesus leave us His body and Blood? You might need to remind the children of the "last supper" and have a discussion on what happened then.

What did Jesus promise to everyone who “eats the bread of life?” Jesus promised that they would never be hungry or thirsty and that He would give them everlasting life with Him in Heaven.

Explain to the children the words of the consecration that the Priest says at every Mass...the words of Jesus...”This is my body....” And when raising the chalice...”This is my blood....”

Explain that at these words of consecration God, through the actions of the Priest, changes the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus.

Explain and discuss with the children the wonderful gift that Jesus has provided us with in giving us Himself – body, blood, soul and divinity- truly present in the consecrated bread and wine that we receive in Holy Communion.

It is due to this wonderful gift that we can see that Jesus loves us so much that He remains with us in the consecrated hosts in the tabernacle and in Holy Communion.

You could take the opportunity to discuss with the children the (red) sanctuary lamp and that when you enter a Roman Catholic church where this is lit, it indicates that Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the tabernacle, and that this is why we genuflect towards the tabernacle.

If time permits you could also mention Eucharistic Adoration and ask if the children have ever been to Adoration or Benediction. Explain about exposition where we adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament displayed placed in the Monstrance. (The children may describe the Monstrance as a “golden sunshine”).

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:

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for showing Your love for us by being forever present in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacles of our churches and for coming to us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Help us to love and serve You better in our daily lives, and in Your love, draw us ever closer to You.

Lord, in Your mercy.
All reply: **"Hear our prayer"**

Closing Prayer

"Oh Sacrament most Holy, Oh Sacrament Divine,

All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine."

(Say three times) Amen.

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

References

(1)The Complete Children's Liturgy Book.Katie Thomson, published by Kevin Mayhew. P349.