

EASTER – SEVENTH SUNDAY - YEAR C – 1st June 2025

Vestment Colour: White

Introduction

Today the gospel reminds us that Jesus prayed to His Father for all His disciples including all future disciples (and that includes us) – that we may be united in love just as Jesus and His Father in Heaven are united.

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”. (Sung to tune of Frere Jacques)

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.

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:** (same tune as above tune of Frere Jacques)

Alleluia, Alleluia.
Jesus prayed
For us all
Heavenly Father
Unite all my disciples
“May they be
one in love.”

Alternatively recite the acclamation for this Sunday

Alleluia, alleluia.
I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.
I am going away and I will come to you,
And your hearts will rejoice.
Alleluia

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children’s Lectionary. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children.” (Year C). Alternatively use a new version of the Bible the ESV-CE.

John 17:20-26

“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

In today's Gospel,

- What did Jesus do? (He prayed to His Father in Heaven).
- Who was Jesus praying for? (He prayed for all of His disciples those present with Him and for all future disciples including us!)
- What did Jesus pray for? (He asked His Father to help us all to love one another as God loves us and to show that love to others in the way we live our lives).
- How can we show that we love God and each other?

(By the way we live our every day lives: being kind and helpful, including everyone in our games, working our best at our school work, helping out at home, speaking to God in our prayers and remembering to tell Jesus that we love HimThe children will usually have lots of suggestions and examples of how we show that we love God and each other. It is well worth spending some time discussing this).

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 Jesus,

You have asked that we love one another as you loved us. Help us to be strong witnesses to your love daily by our actions and words.

Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for all that you have done for us. May our love for one another bring others to know and love you, too.

Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Closing Prayer

Let us pray, as Jesus taught us to pray, as we say together the “Our Father”.

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

Useful Resources

CAFOD at <https://cafod.org.uk/Children-s-Liturgy>

Children’s Liturgy with Emily:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwnLJNMXemY>

Archdiocese of Dunkeld: <https://www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk/resources-for-children-liturgy/> Search for page entitled ‘Resources for Children’s Liturgy’

The Liturgy of the Word with Children by Katie Thompson, publisher Kevin Mayhew