
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

12th July 2026

Vestment Colour: Green

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh has a website that contains further resources, information and plans for Children's Liturgy for use by Children's Liturgy Leaders. A full template is available on the website.

Health & Safety: *Once you are all assembled, take a head count in case of the need to evacuate (if possible, roster of names). Candles are permitted if they are included in your risk assessment.*

Introduction:

Leader: Today, we here that we should be careful to really listen to the Word of God to fully understand.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

The Gospel Acclamation: All stand to welcome the Gospel. (*You can encourage the children to sing the Alleluia*).

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; all who find him will live for ever,

Alleluia.

Alternatively, you can use the following (*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: Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary (Year A). Alternatively use an approved translation of the Bible (the ESV-CE version or Good News Bible for Children). *Do not paraphrase the Gospel; however, you may need to explain unusual or difficult words and names to the children.*

Matthew 13: 1-9

Leader: "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew".

All: "Glory to You, O Lord."

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

Leader: "The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ". Ask everyone to be seated.

Gospel Reflection: *the following are some suggestions to help with a discussion around the Gospel.*

What did you hear in the Gospel today? Acknowledge and encourage them.

Do you know a 'parable' is? Explain that it is a story told about everyday events that has a special meaning. We need to listen carefully to work out what Jesus is telling.

How did the farmer sow his seeds? Some fell on the path, some between the rocks, some between thorns and some on good soil.

What happened to the seeds? Allow the children time to answer.

What did Jesus mean when he talked about the seed and the soil in this parable?

The seed represents God's word and soil represents our hearts:

- the paths and rocky soil is like people whose hearts are not open to God's word
- the thorns are like people who have given up on God
- the rich soil is like the hearts of people who listen to God.

Jesus wants us to keep our hearts open to hear God's word, being like rich soil, and follow his teachings. Discuss with the children ways they can keep their hearts open to God. Prayer, signing hymns, coming to Mass, reading scripture, doing good things for others.

Prayers of the Faithful:

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

We now ask Our Lord to hear our prayer

Dear Lord

We pray that especially in our church community our hearts may be open to the word of God.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

Dear Lord

We pray for our friends and family, that they are open to your words and feel your love every day.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

Dear Lord

We pray that we may truly listen to your word and hear what we should do to follow you.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord

You look after the earth and bless it with sunshine and rain to help the soil grow all kinds of crops. The river of Your love never runs dry.

All: Amen.