

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C – 7th April 2019

Introduction

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent – a time of forty days of preparation for Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. In Lent we do three things to bring us closer to God, so that we may truly celebrate the joy of Easter. (Ask children if they remember what three things we should do during lent.) During Lent we **PRAY** more, we **FAST** (give up something we like), and we show love or **CHARITY** to those around us by being generous and sharing and not being selfish. The most important of these three actions is prayer.

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 Frere Jacques)
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

NO Gloria DURING LENT

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to You Lord,
Praise we give You,
Christ Our King,
You have said, (same tune)
“Go now, do not sin.
God’s Good News is for You”
Praise to You,
Christ our King.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children’s Lectionary. This week it’s on page 33, Fifth Sunday of Lent, in the Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children.” (Year C)

John 8:1-5,6b-11

“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

Who was brought into the Temple? (A woman who did something wrong.)

What did the law say should happen to her? (She should be stoned.)

What did Jesus say when he was told that she should be stoned? (He asked for the person who had never done wrong to throw the first stone.)

What did the people do? (They left the Temple one by one until they were all gone.)

What did Jesus say to the woman? (She was forgiven and should leave and not sin any more.)

How do you feel when you see someone doing something wrong? (You want them to stop.) What do you do? How do you feel when you are caught doing something wrong? What is it like when people shout at you? How would you like people to treat you when you do something wrong?

We all do things wrong at times. We are not perfect. God knows that and loves us even if we are not perfect. He doesn't like our actions when we do something wrong, but he does forgive us when we say sorry and truly want to change and be good.

If there is time, you could give each child a small stone. Ensure that they use them appropriately. Mention that people today don't hurl stones at people for doing wrong. Ask them to think of a time when they did something wrong and didn't treat others kindly and they were sorry. Don't encourage them to say the action out loud. Ask them to think about how they would be different next time. After a few minutes ask them to come forward one by one and place the stone on the table with the candles as a symbol of how they will act like Jesus.

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:

We pray to Jesus help of all those in need:

Leader: We pray for the Church, that our leaders know what to do and say. Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the world, that our leaders will act with fairness to all. Lord in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people judged by others, like the woman in the gospel. Lord in Your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, help us each day to act like you by loving and forgiving others. Lord in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer

Hail Mary, full of grace.....

Amen.

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