

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C – 26th May 2019

Introduction

Today Jesus tells His disciples that he is going to prepare a place in Heaven for them and that he will return and take them with Him.

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, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
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:**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Jesus says,

Do not fear!

“My peace I give you. (same tune as above)

My peace I give you.”

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children’s Lectionary. This week it’s on page 53. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children.” (Year C)

John 14:23-29

“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, Jesus had some important news for the disciples. What did he say?

(He said it would soon be time for Him to go back to His Father in Heaven and that He was going to prepare a place for them. He promised to return and take them to heaven with Him).

What did Jesus say that the disciples should do? Why?

(He said that they should be obedient to Him and live as He had taught them. Jesus said that they would do this if they love Him.)

What special help did Jesus promise that His Father would send the disciples to help them?

(Jesus said that His Father would send the Holy Spirit to help them, to remind them of what He had said and to "teach them everything").

What else did Jesus say? (Jesus said "I leave you my peace." He explained that the peace he gave them was not like peace gained from this world and he told them not to be afraid).

When do we receive the Holy Spirit? (We receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism, and later in the Sacrament of Confirmation).

How do you feel when you do something good for someone else? Maybe helping at home, being kind to someone, noticing that someone is feeling left out and including them in your games etc.)

We feel good and that good feeling is the peace that Jesus was talking about. Our desire to do good comes from listening to the Holy Spirit, who reminds you of what Jesus teaches and that everything that Jesus teaches comes from God the Father.

What prayers do we say to the Holy Spirit?

(Remind the children that when we bless ourselves making the sign of the cross "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." –This is a prayer in which we pray to the Trinity – the three persons in one God – including the Holy Spirit!

Also there is the “Glory be to the Father”, another prayer which we all know and say, but may not always think of whom we are praying to).

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”.

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”

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

