THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

25th October 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 are reminded that we must love God with all of our heart, and soul and mind and we must love one another as we love ourselves.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: Almighty, ever living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise.

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.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Alleluia.

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 22: 34-40

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.*

It's good to have rules in life. Discuss with the children why it's good to have them. (They create order. Everybody knows what is expected, and it keeps people safe. For example, imagine if there were no rules for car drivers and people trying to cross the road...)

Ask the children if any of them have heard of the Ten Commandments and what they are? They are a special set of rules that God gave to Moses to pass on to all of us. They are rules to guide us on the right path in harmony with God's plan for us and help us to live a good and happy life that is pleasing to God.

When Jesus was asked which of the Ten Commandments was the greatest how did He answer? (He said 'You must love the Lord your God with all your might and love the your neighbour as yourself')

Jesus was saying you must treat others as you would like to be treated. It's easy to want others to treat us kindly and share things with us. It can be difficult to treat them the same way when we don't feel like it though.

This is exactly what we have been asked to do, treat everybody just as if you were showing the love of Jesus at all times.

We have the best example of this in our Lord Jesus Christ. He came to the Earth and He took on human form and showed us how to live God's love.

We must follow this example and show God's love to everybody we meet -not just those who we want to be kind to and when it's easy.

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 Jesus

Thank you for sending your only Son to Earth to walk among us and give us His example of love. Help us to strive to share your love with all those we meet both in our words and in our deeds.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus,

Remind me how precious the gift of life is. May I never take anyone for granted and always show love and kindness to my neighbour. I am your hands and feet on Earth Lord. Help me to answer Your call in my life and follow the path You have set for me.

All: Amen.