



Children's liturgy – Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: Today we hear how Jesus valued children and thought they were important. Let's think about how important all children around the world are today.

Opening prayer: God of love, help us to recognise the importance of all children no matter where in the world they come from. Amen.

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples left that place and went on through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where he was, because he was teaching his disciples: "The Son of Man will be handed over to those who will kill him. Three days later, however, he will rise to life."

But they did not understand what this teaching meant, and they were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and after going indoors Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you arguing about on the road?"

But they would not answer him, because on the road they had been arguing among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must place himself last of all and be the servant of all." Then he took a child and had him stand in front of them. He put his arms around him and said to them, "Whoever welcomes in my name one of these children, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not only me but also the one who sent me."

Gospel reflection: In today's reading Jesus shows the disciples how important children are. Can you remember what Jesus says?

Jesus says that anyone who welcomes a child, welcomes him. What do you think that means?

Jesus is in all of us. No matter who we are, where we come from, whether we are rich or poor, old or young. Even the youngest person is special and important because they are loved by God.

Children around the world are different. But each one of them is special and important.

Victoria is 10, she lives in South Sudan, a country in Africa. Her family is very poor but she is making the best of things. "I go to school and my friends are my blessing," she

says. "Being in school makes me happy. My favourite sport is football. My favourite subjects are English and Science. Education gives me hope. With education I will be clever and will be independent when I'm older."

Jean-Pierre is 10, he lives in Peru, a country in Latin America. He has a cheeky grin and likes playing games, especially marbles. He loves to go to book club and read about super heroes. After school he helps take care of the special school garden. He wants to be a teacher.

What things do you have in common with Victoria and Jean-Pierre? What things do they do or like, that you do or like too?

What will you do this week to show that all people are important no matter who they are?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration of children around the world. On the back write or draw what they will do in the coming week to help others, and to show that all children are important and loved by God.

Write a prayer for all children around the world, especially those who are living in poverty.

Tell the people at home all that they have heard and thought about today. If you have written a prayer, say it with your family during the coming week. Remember to do one thing in the coming week to help others and show that all people are important because they are loved by God.

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