



Children's liturgy – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: Today we hear how Jesus teaches his disciples a very special prayer. A prayer that we still say today. Can you guess what it is? Let's think about this prayer and what the words mean for us.

Opening prayer: Lord Jesus, as we remember the prayer you taught your disciples today, help us to understand the words, to pray them with an open heart and to be moved to live our lives as you ask us to. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

'Father:

May your holy name be honoured;

may your Kingdom come.

Give us day by day the food we need.

Forgive us our sins,

for we forgive everyone who does us wrong.

And do not bring us to hard testing."

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Suppose one of you should go to a friend's house at midnight and say, 'Friend, let me borrow three loaves of bread. A friend of mine who is on a journey has just come to my house, and I haven't got any food for him!' And suppose your friend should answer from inside, 'Don't bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' Well, what then? I tell you that even if he will not get up and give you the bread because you are his friend, yet he will get up and give you everything you need because you are not ashamed to keep on asking.

And so I say to you: ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For all those who ask will receive, and those who seek will find, and the door will be opened to anyone who knocks. Would any of you who are fathers give

your son a snake when he asks for fish? Or would you give him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? Bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Gospel reflection:

The disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. So, what does Jesus do?

Jesus gives the disciples a prayer that they can use. (Perhaps read the words Jesus gives us in the gospel again to remind the children.)

The prayer is often called the "Lord's prayer", because it is the prayer that Jesus, our Lord, taught us. With slightly different words, we still pray this prayer today. It is a prayer that we say every time we come to Mass. We say it at school. And we might even say it at home.

Often, when we know something really well, we don't really think about the words that we are saying. We forget that this is our way of talking to God, and that the words are special. So today let's think a bit about what the words mean.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed by thy name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Think quietly for a moment about this opening part of the prayer. What do you think it means?

"Hallowed" is an old fashioned word for "holy". (You may need to explain any other words that the children don't understand eg art, thy...)

We are praising God in heaven and asking that we may be able to do what God asks of us, so that God's Kingdom may come.

What do you think God's Kingdom is like?

God's Kingdom is a place of love, generosity and fairness, where all people have what they need.

How do you think we can make the world a fairer place, so that it is more like God's Kingdom?

The next line is: Give us this day our daily bread.

What do you think this is about?

We are asking God to give us enough food to eat.

But we don't ask just for ourselves – we don't say "give me my bread" – we say "give us our bread" because the food that God gives is for all people to share. It is for everyone

around the world. This line of the prayer means that we must share the food that we have with others so that everyone has enough.

Does everyone around the world have enough food to eat?

How do you think we can do what this line of the prayer asks us to do and share our food with each other?

The prayer finishes with:

Forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

(Again, you may wish to explain any words that the children don't understand, like trespass, temptation...)

Any ideas about what this is about?

We ask God to forgive us for the things that we do wrong, but we also promise to forgive others. And we ask God to help us to do what is right in the future.

At the end of the reading Jesus tells us that if we speak to God in prayer, God will answer. So, this week, let us remember to pray each day.

This week, each time you say the Lord's prayer, try to think about what the words really mean to you.

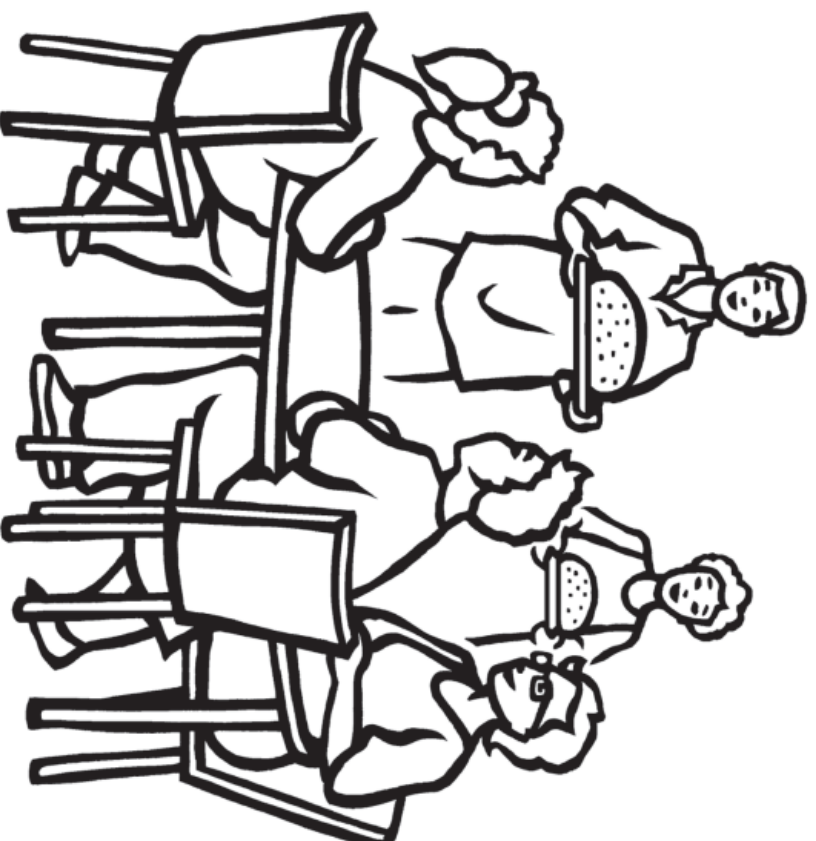
How will you do what is right this week? How will you help make sure that all people have their fair share of the daily bread that God gives to us? How will you do what is right?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration, then write or draw on the back how you will do what God asks of you this week or how you will help make sure that all people have your fair share of the food that God gives us.

Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with the people at home. Think carefully each time you say the Lord's prayer in the coming week about what the words really mean. Try to do your best to do what God asks of you and to make sure that all people have their fair share of food.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 11:1-13



Find prayer ideas and activities to use throughout the summer holidays at cafod.org.uk/families