



## Children's liturgy – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Welcome:** In today's gospel Jesus gives the disciples a very special gift – the gift of peace. Let's think some more about peace today.

Opening prayer: Dear God, help us to make our world a peaceful place so that all people can live free from the fear of fighting and war. We ask this through Christ our Lord and Prince of Peace. Amen.

### **Gospel: John 14:23-29**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Whoever loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and my Father and I will come to him and live with him. Whoever does not love me does not obey my teaching. And the teaching you have heard is not mine, but comes from the Father, who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am still with you. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.

“Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am leaving, but I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father; for he is greater than I. I have told you this now before it all happens, so that when it does happen, you will believe.”

**Gospel reflection:** Today Jesus gives his disciples a very special gift. Can you remember what that gift is?

Jesus gives his disciples peace. And he tells his disciples not to be afraid.

Can you think of a time when you were fighting with someone? How did you feel?

Can you remember a time when other people were arguing near you? How did you feel then?

Can you remember a time when you stopped fighting with someone and made friends with them again? Or when the argument near you ended and the people forgave each other? How did that feel?

CAFOD is part of a family of Catholic charities around the world called Caritas. CAFOD is supporting their Caritas sisters and brothers to reach communities in need in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries.

Tamara is a mother from Ukraine. She has five-year-old twins and a baby daughter. She and her children had to leave Ukraine because of the war. It took them five days to reach safety in Poland.

How would you feel if you had to leave your home because of a war?

During this time Tamara and her children were very cold and hungry. But when they arrived in Poland, there were people waiting to help them.

Staff from Caritas took Tamara and her children into a tent where they could have a hot meal and get warm and they arranged for them to stay at a local school.

How do you think this made Tamara and her children feel? This help has given them some hope after a long and difficult journey. Children who are still in Ukraine are being helped as well. Caritas workers have set up places where children can go to feel safe.

Maria helps run art activities for the children to help them cope with what is going on around them. She says of the children “We try to play with them, paint together, just create a safe space and make contact. Many children start painting with black paint, really scary things. But then they start to add more colours.”

Some other children around the world where there is lots of fighting or violence attend peace clubs which focus on sport, music or dancing to bring different children together somewhere safe and learn to live peacefully together.

This helps to build peace in their community.

How do you think you can help to build peace? Think about how you speak to and treat others who you disagree with, or how you could be friendly to someone who doesn't have many friends? What could you do to stop someone else from being unkind to others? Or how you could let people in power know that you would like to live in a peaceful world?

How will you share the gift of peace this week in your community? And around the world?

### **Activity**

Colour in the accompanying illustration of a gift – the gift of peace – and write or draw in it one or all of the following things:

- What peace looks like/means to you.
- How you will share the gift of peace over the coming week
- Who you will share the gift of peace with over the coming week

Imagine that you are setting up a new peace club to encourage children from different faiths and backgrounds to come together and live peacefully. What activities would you do? Who would be welcome? What would be the rules of the club?

Think about children around the world who live in a place where there is fighting, and who hope to build peace in their communities. Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about in today's liturgy with the people at home, and to share your message or prayer for peace with your family during the week.

Peace I give you..

**This is my gift to you.**

