



Children's liturgy – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: Today we hear the story of two men, one of whom is rich and feasts every day on good food. The other man, Lazarus, is poor and he longs for something to eat. This story helps us to see how we should treat one another. Let's think a bit more about this now.

Opening prayer: Loving God, every one of us is special and loved by you. Help us to do all that we can so that everyone throughout the world has enough to eat. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

"There was once a rich man who dressed in the most expensive clothes and lived in great luxury every day. There was also a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who used to be brought to the rich man's door, hoping to eat the bits of food that fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the feast in heaven. The rich man died and was buried, and in Hades, where he was in great pain, he looked up and saw Abraham, far away, with Lazarus at his side. So he called out, 'Father Abraham! Take pity on me, and send Lazarus to dip his finger in some water and cool my tongue, because I am in great pain in this fire!'

But Abraham said, 'Remember, my son, that in your lifetime you were given all the good things, while Lazarus got all the bad things. But now he is enjoying himself here, while you are in pain. Besides all that, there is a deep pit lying between us, so that those who want to cross over from here to you cannot do so, nor can anyone cross over to us from where you are.' The rich man said, 'Then I beg you, father Abraham, send Lazarus to my father's house, where I have five brothers. Let him go and warn them so that they, at least, will not come to this place of pain.'

Abraham said, 'Your brothers have Moses and the prophets to warn them; your brothers should listen to what they say.' The rich man answered, 'That is not enough, father Abraham! But if someone were to rise from death and go to them, then they would turn from their sins.' But Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone were to rise from death.'"

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

The rich man wears fine clothes and feasts every day on the best food that he can get. He has more than he needs.

Lazarus sits outside the rich man's gate. He is poor and he is hungry. He wishes that he could eat the leftovers that fall from the rich man's table.

What does the rich man do to help Lazarus?

How do you think Lazarus feels about being ignored while the rich man eats his tasty food?

What do you think about how the rich man treats Lazarus?

What do you think the rich man should do? What would you do?

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

God created the world with enough food for everyone. But we are not sharing fairly. Some of us are like the rich man and we have more food that we can eat. Some of us are like Lazarus and go to bed hungry every night.

How does hearing this make you feel? What do you think we can do to make sure everyone has enough to eat?

We can take no more than we need, share any extra that we have and we can ask the government to fix our broken food system.

Every single person in the world is special. We are all loved by God. And every single person in our big global family has the right to enough food to live a healthy life.

But some of us aren't able to get enough food. This is a big problem. And it's not easy to solve. Sometimes, when something is difficult, we ignore it, hoping that the problem will go away.

Can you think of a time when you've hoped a problem would just go away? What happened?

The rich man in Jesus' story is a bit like this. He ignores Lazarus, even though Lazarus is right outside his gate and he walks past him every day.

What lesson do you think we can learn from this story today?

God calls us to share what we have and to do all that we can to help each other get enough to eat. God asks us not to ignore each other, but to reach out and help one another.

What could you do to help make sure that all people here and around the world have enough food to eat?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration and draw in yourself and all the people you will share food with around the table. You could also draw or write their favourite foods on the table as a symbol of what you will share.

Why not write your own grace to say before meals, remembering those among us who do not have enough to eat.

Maybe get involved in Cafod's Step up to the plate campaign and tell the government to fix the food system so that everyone has enough to eat. More information can be found at cafod.org.uk/stepup

Share all that you have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with your grown ups. If you have written a grace, remember to say it at home together during the week before meals. Try to do all that you can to share food with others during the coming week.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31



