



Children's liturgy – Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Welcome: Today we reflect on how Jesus is our teacher, who guides us to make the right choices, even when it is difficult. We will think about how important it is for all children around the world to have the chance to learn.

Opening prayer: God of love, teach us to follow you, strengthen our faith and help us to make the right choices even when it is difficult. Amen.

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw a man who was driving out demons in your name, and we told him to stop, because he doesn't belong to our group."

"Do not try to stop him," Jesus told them, "because no one who performs a miracle in my name will be able soon afterwards to say evil things about me. For whoever is not against us is for us. I assure you that anyone who gives you a drink of water because you belong to me will certainly receive his reward.

"If anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be thrown into the sea. So if your hand makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a hand than to keep both hands and go off to hell, to the fire that never goes out.

And if your foot makes you lose your faith, cut it off! It is better for you to enter life without a foot than to keep both feet and be thrown into hell.

And if your eye makes you lose your faith, take it out! It is better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to keep both eyes and be thrown into hell. There 'the worms that eat them never die, and the fire that burns them is never put out.'"

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about the gospel reading that we heard today?

What does John call Jesus, right at the beginning of our story today? John calls Jesus "Teacher". What is a teacher? Who is your teacher?

A teacher is someone who helps us to learn, who inspires and guides us, who shows us how to do things and helps us to be the best we can be.

It is important for all people around the world to have a chance to learn. Daniel lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He joined a workshop to learn carpentry.

He says, “We learned to make cabinets. We learned to make tables. We learned to make beds. And many other things, like chairs to sit on. I was really focusing on my work because I knew this is what is going to help me tomorrow and in the future.”

Without this training, Daniel might have ended up involved in the fighting in his country. He’s really glad he did the workshop, but he feels sad that some of his other friends didn’t get to go to school.

Jesus came to teach the disciples, and all of us, about God, his Father. He came to show us the way to live our lives to please God and to help us to know God better.

Jesus tells the disciples that anyone who is not against him, who is not Jesus’ enemy, is his friend. And Jesus says that anyone who treats people well because they follow him will be loved by him and be rewarded in heaven.

Do you believe that Jesus is our friend, a teacher who loves and cares for all of us always? I do!

But how do we show that we are friends or followers of Jesus? What would Jesus like us to do?

Just like Jesus cares for us all, he asks us to care for one another. Not just the people we know, our friends and our family, but for all people around the world. And to show our love and care for others in everything that we do.

Caring for others and following Jesus means being kind and generous and friendly and helpful. It can mean making sure everyone has enough food to eat, and clean water to drink, or the chance to go to school.

But it can also mean sticking up for what is right and what we believe in. We might have to choose to do the right thing when others are doing something wrong. We might need to speak out when we see something happening that we know is not right or fair.

How will you show that you care for others and follow Jesus this week?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration of Daniel making a chair at his carpentry workshop and to complete the rest of the activity sheet.

School is a gift which should be for everyone. CAFOD wants to create opportunities for students around the world to learn. Can you help us?

For activities and resources to support Family Fast Day with the children visit cafod.org.uk/schoolfundraising

Remember to tell the people at home all that you have heard and thought about today. Try to do what you can to care for others, to follow Jesus and to learn from him throughout the coming week

