



Children's liturgy – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: Today we hear about a bad judge and a widow who would not give up. And Jesus teaches us the importance of justice, of praying and of never giving up hope. Let's find out more.

Opening prayer: God of justice and wisdom, help us to keep on praying and never to doubt that you will be with us always. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always pray and never become discouraged. "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him and pleading for her rights, saying, 'Help me against my opponent!' For a long time the judge refused to act, but at last he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her rights. If I don't, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out!'"

And the Lord continued, "Listen to what that corrupt judge said. Now, will God not judge in favour of his own people who cry to him day and night for help? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will judge in their favour and do it quickly. But will the Son of Man find faith on earth when he comes?"

Gospel reflection:

What do you remember about today's reading?

Jesus tells us a story about a bad judge and a widow who wants justice – who wants what is right.

Judges are supposed to be fair and honest, but this isn't always the case. The prophets in the Bible were always getting angry with bad judges who thought more about themselves than about the people who needed their help. And if the judges didn't sort out the problems fairly then people would suffer again and again.

Can you think of things that seem unfair to you? How do you feel when someone has treated you unfairly?

The widow was ignored by the law, but she didn't give up. She just kept asking the judge to make things right. Eventually, just to get rid of her, he gave her what she wanted, justice. Her prayers were finally answered.

Why do you think Jesus told us this story? What does he want us to understand?

The widow is like us - we call to God in our prayers to give us what we need and want.

But if this bad judge eventually did the right thing, how much more will God, who is all-powerful and good, do what is right? So, if we don't get what we pray for the first time, should we just give up?

Jesus says that God hears the cries of all who call out to him day and night. And God will certainly answer our prayers, even if it's not in the way that we expect.

How does it make you feel to know that God always hears you when you pray?

There are many things that are unfair in our world. And there are many people, like the widow in the story, who struggle to make their voices heard.

We can pray for these people, but we also have to do what we can to make sure all people are treated fairly. Who knows, we might even be the answer to someone's prayers!

Did you know that one in three people around the world do not have enough safe and healthy food all year round? This is not fair and it is not right.

Do you think you could do something about this? (See the activity suggestions below and also encourage the children to think of their own ideas).

This week think about how you can treat other people in our world fairly and justly. What will you do to help others know that you care?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration, adding what you think the judge and the woman are saying to each other in the speech bubbles.

Write a prayer to God for a fairer world for all people to live in. Or pray Cafod's prayer for the world food crisis with them. Available at cafod.org.uk/primary

Encourage the children to get involved with our step up to the plate campaign and call on the government to keep the poorest communities at the heart of their decisions. More information is available at cafod.org.uk/stepup

Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about today with your grown ups. If you have written a prayer, say it in the coming week. Remember to do all that you can to stand up for what is right and fair in the coming week..

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 18:1-8



Speak up for what is right and help to build a fairer world: cafod.org.uk/latestcampaigns

