



Children's liturgy – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: We are all God's children and we are all part of one big global family. Today we hear about how we must not argue with our brothers and sisters and how, if we do, we need to make peace with them. Let's think about making peace with all our brothers and sisters around the world.

Opening prayer: Loving God, when we do wrong and hurt others help us to be brave and say sorry. Help us to all live in peace together. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 5: 17-37

"I tell you, then, that you will be able to enter the Kingdom of heaven only if you are more faithful than the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees in doing what God requires.

"You have heard that people were told in the past, 'Do not commit murder; anyone who does will be brought to trial.' But now I tell you: whoever is angry with his brother will be brought to trial, whoever calls his brother 'You good-for-nothing!' will be brought before the Council, and whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to the fire of hell. So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back to offer your gift to God.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But now I tell you: anyone who looks at a woman and wants to possess her is guilty of committing adultery with her in his heart.

"You have also heard that people were told in the past, 'Do not break your promise, but do what you have vowed to the Lord to do.' But now I tell you: do not use any vow when you make a promise. Do not swear by heaven, for it is God's throne;

"Just say 'Yes' or 'No' – anything else you say comes from the Evil One."

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

Jesus tells us that we must try hard not to get angry with our sisters and brothers or call them names. If we do argue with them we must try to make it up with them and become friends again as soon as possible.

Have you ever argued with someone? How did it make you feel to argue with them? How did you make up with them? Was it easy or difficult? How did you feel once you were friends again?

We are all part of God's family. That is one big global family that includes all people wherever they are in the world. All people are our sisters and brothers and God asks us to try to treat them as we want to be treated.

In our global family we are all different. Look at the person sitting next to you. How are they different to you? How are they the same as you?

Sometimes people spend too much time thinking about the differences between us, rather than seeing that we are all part of the same global family. This can lead to arguments and problems. In some cases it can lead to war or fighting between countries which means that people get hurt and have to leave their homes.

How do you think it would feel to live somewhere where there was a war? Do you know anyone who has had to leave their home and move to somewhere safer?

We are all different but we all have our own special gifts. What is your special gift? Are you good at sharing? Are you good at making friends? Are you a brilliant singer, dancer, builder, scientist?

We can use our special gifts to work together to make the world a fairer place for everyone rather than fighting with people who are different.

This week, can you try not to argue with or hurt anyone? How will you try to make peace with others this week?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration of an argument and draw underneath what you think should happen next.

Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about today with your grown-ups. Try to go through the week trying not to argue with or upset other people, just because they are different.

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