

Parish Material / Children's Liturgy

"Grow in Holiness: Become Saints of the 21st Century."



We begin with the sign of the cross:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let's Listen to His Word together:

Readings adapted from the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Year A



A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses: he said: 'Speak to the whole community and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am Holy. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."'

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R/The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,

All my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord

And never forget all his blessing. r/

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you?

Make no mistake about it: If any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he can really be wise.

Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,

And my father will love him,

And we shall come to him

Alleluia

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you O God

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

You must be perfect just as your Father is perfect.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Let's think about the message together:

Leader: This week is called 'Catholic Education Week'. During this week we think about what it means to grow and learn as boys and girls who believe in God.

When the Pope came to visit us last year he gave a special message to all of the boys and girls of the country.

He said that he wanted us to "Grow in holiness and become saints of the 21st century"

It is sometimes difficult to know how to be holy or what we have to do to become saints.

But, if we listen to God's word, it can help us to know how we should act. Each time we act in the right way we are taking one more step along the road to holiness.

In today's readings we found out that to be holy we should...



Messages from today's readings

What do we need to do to grow in holiness?

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

BLESS HIS HOLY NAME

REALISE YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE

LEARN TO BE A FOOL TO BE WISE

KEEP GOD'S WORD

OFFER YOUR OTHER CHEEK

GIVE YOUR CLOAK

GO AN EXTRA MILE

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

BE PERFECT, AS GOD IS PERFECT



NOTES AND TASK:

1. Ask the children to look at the 'messages' from today's readings.
2. Explain that each one of these is like a stepping stone on our road to holiness.
3. Ask the children to pick one message each and to write or draw, in their own words, how they could put it into practice in their own 'road to holiness'.
4. Display their work as if they are stepping stones along a road/pathway.

The Children's Liturgy leader may want to explain the meaning of some of the extracts from the readings or give a modern day equivalent to some of the acts. e.g.

Love your neighbour as yourself: When playing games try to think about how much you like to be included. Perhaps you could ask those boys and girls who maybe don't normally get asked to join in your team? If you find yourself talking about someone stop and think, would you like someone to say those things about you?

Give thanks to the Lord: Find time within your day to stop and think about all the gifts and talents that God has given you. Think about your family and friends and how they support and love you. Take time to pray to God and thank him for all of His love shown in your life.

Bless his Holy name: Try not to rush your prayers, but take time to really give reverence and respect to the words that you say. Do you ever take time to tell your friends all about what you have learned about God?

Realise you are God's temple: You may want to tell the story of how Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta spent time caring for the poorest and most vulnerable people of society because she saw Jesus when she looked at them.

Learn to be a fool to be wise: You could tell the story of Saint Maximilian Kolbe and how, to the rest of the world, he did a foolish thing by exchanging his life for another man's – but what he did was not the wisdom of humans but of God and was truly a holy act.

Keep God's word: Can you think of ways that you can try to put into practice some of the things that you have learned at school or in children's liturgy about what God has said to us about how we should act in our daily life?

Turning the other cheek: May mean not just walking away if someone calls you a name but telling them that you forgive them, even if that means they may call you another name.

Giving your cloak: Not many of us would be taken to court for our clothes (*see the Gospel reading*), but maybe we could not only give our old/surplus clothing away to charity shops but make more of a sacrifice with something we still use.

Going the extra mile: This may mean that, rather than just doing exactly what your parents tell you to do in the house to help, you can do more without being asked.

Love your enemies: Jesus tells us that we have to go even further than just being kind and caring to our friends and to the people we wouldn't normally play with. But he says we have to be kind to the boys and girls who we don't like. Even if they call us names, or don't ask us to play in their games, Jesus says we have to put that to one side and treat them with love.

Be perfect as God is perfect: This is a really hard one because we all make mistakes. But Jesus tells us that, if we listen to him and try to put his teaching into place, then we are trying to be like God. Every time we do this we are continuing on **our** road to holiness and to becoming saints.

***What can / do to
grow in holiness?***



Catholic Education Week 2011



Pray together: If you have time, in silence think and pray about all the good things that you have done and said today. Ask God to help you to continue to do good tomorrow.

You could conclude your time together by writing a letter to God thanking him for all that he has taught you about how to grow in holiness and telling him how you are going to try to become a saint.



Catholic Education Week Prayer:

**Father of all,
in your love for us,
help us to develop our own talents
so that we may become like Jesus
and lead lives of goodness.**

**Bless all learners
and all teachers.**

**Help us, through our learning,
to believe in you
and to celebrate the life of your Church.**

**Help us to grow in holiness
as we grow in friendship with you
and try to become saints.**

**We make this prayer
in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen**

