

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 6 September 2020



**"If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back."**

### Something to Think About

Today's gospel reading is about community. What does the word 'community' mean to you? Can you name some different communities that you belong to?

### The Story

In the gospel story today, Jesus teaches his followers about how they should live in community with one another. Jesus gives his disciples some advice about what to do when members of the community make a complaint or refuse to listen. It is important for people to belong to a community. Belonging makes us feel secure and loved. Jesus wants us to live together as one happy family.

### The Scriptures

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-17**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If one of my followers sins against you, go and point out what was wrong. But do it in private, just between the two of you. If that person listens, you have won back a follower. But if that one refuses to listen, take along one or two others. "The Scriptures teach that every complaint must be proven true by two or more witnesses. If the follower refuses to listen to them, report the matter to the church. "Anyone who refuses to listen to the church must be treated like an unbeliever or a tax collector."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Group Discussion

There are certain things that people need to do when they belong to a community. Think about one of the communities you belong to, maybe your family, your school, a sports club, or a music group.

What happens in your community if somebody does something inappropriate? How do you all experience forgiveness and reconciliation?

Share your ideas about how you could improve your community, by making it stronger, more united, more harmonious.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader:* We pray that our leaders will be willing to work together for the good of all people. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for countries being destroyed by war and violence. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for people in our community who are hurting. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for peace in our families and communities. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Video

Click to watch the video.

[Conflict Resolution](#)



## Group Activity

You will need strips of paper, markers and scissors to make a paper doll chain.  
(See instructions below.)

Each child (or family member) gets a paper doll chain.

On each paper doll, invite children to write or draw something they could do to build God's community on earth.

Brainstorm these ideas together first. For example: caring for others, being fair, forgiving others, being helpful, speaking kindly, working together.

Each person's completed paper doll chain could then be connected with tape to create a united community.



Take a sheet of A4 paper and cut it lengthwise.  
Fold it into equal sections of accordion pleats. (For more detailed instructions, [click here](#)).  
Draw a person on the top layer, making sure that the arms extend beyond the edge of the paper.  
Cut out the shape of the person and unfold to make a chain of paper dolls.  
To make a longer chain of dolls, use an A3 sheet of paper, or fold into more pleats before cutting out the figure.

## Prayer

Say this prayer together during the week.



God in heaven, hear my prayer,  
keep me in your love and care.  
Bless all those who love me too,  
be our help in all we do.



**IF THERE IS A PROBLEM,  
DON'T FIGHT – TALK ABOUT IT!**

Imagine what these boys  
are saying to each other