

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 July 2023 - Year A

***“Anyone who welcomes you,
welcomes me.”***

Something to Think About

Where do we find Jesus in our world today and how do we make Jesus welcome?

The Story

In today's gospel, Jesus tells his followers that they must welcome people, and show kindness through loving actions. It might be as simple as giving someone a drink of water. The message for us is that we can be the hands of Jesus in the world and help others.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

10:40-42

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.

And anyone who welcomes me also welcomes the one who sent me.

"Anyone who welcomes a prophet, just because that person is a prophet, will be given the same reward as a prophet.

Anyone who welcomes a good person, just because that person is good, will be given the same reward as a good person.

"And anyone who gives one of my most humble followers a cup of cool water, just because that person is my follower, will surely be rewarded."

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

Video

Watch the video:
[Give in to Giving](#)



Group Discussion

Remind the children that Jesus can only act in the world through our hands and our words and our generosity. Invite the children to think about their families. Is there someone who could use their help? Now invite the children to think about their friends. Is there someone who could use their kindness or understanding? Invite the children to think about other people in the world who are not as comfortable as they are. Encourage them to think of ways they can make a difference. Perhaps they could give some of their pocket money to a charity. Perhaps there is a neighbour who needs a job done. Perhaps there is someone who is sick who needs cheering up.

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 1: We pray that our leaders will be caring and compassionate. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for those who have no food, no clothes, no home. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for those who need a friend today. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will welcome all people as Jesus taught us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for the courage to make a difference in the world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

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

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Help us to be brave and kind as we
continue your work in the world.
Open our eyes to the needs of those
around us.
Amen.

Group Activity

I Can Change the World With My Own Two Hands

You will need: template for each child, coloured pencils or markers, scissors, glue.

1. Invite children to colour in the picture of the world.
2. Then ask them to think about two actions they could do to make the world around them a better place. Invite children to draw these actions onto the hand shapes on the template— one action on each hand. (Alternatively you may like to trace the child's own hands on a separate sheet of paper.)
3. Assist children to cut out the hand shapes and glue them around the picture of the world as if cradling the earth.



I CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

with my own two hands



1. Think about something you could do to make the world around you a better place. Draw this onto one of the hands below.
2. Now think of something else you could do to make people happy. Draw this onto the other hand.
3. Cut out the hands and glue one on either side of the picture of the world.



You are playing
hand ball on the
playground and a new
boy wants to join in...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

You are building
with Lego and your
sister wants to help...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

WELCOME OTHERS – WELCOME JESUS

