

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

22 October 2023



**“Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.”**

### Something to Think About

What are your responsibilities? Maybe you have chores to do at home. Maybe you have a job to do in your classroom at school. Maybe one of your responsibilities is to practice a musical instrument or to train for a sporting team. In today's story Jesus reminds us that one of our responsibilities is to have a special friendship with God and with other people.

### The Story

In today's story, the religious leaders are trying to trick Jesus into saying something that would make him unpopular. They ask Jesus whether the people should pay taxes to the Emperor, as the law told them to. If Jesus answered 'No', he would have been reported for treason and probably arrested right away. If he answered 'Yes' then he would have been criticised by the people who believed that God was their only king. Jesus demands a coin and asks whose image is engraved on it. In those days the coins contained the image of the king and were considered to be his property. Jesus says, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.' We live in the world and have responsibilities in the world. We also live in relationship with God and that brings responsibility too.

### The Scriptures

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew      22:15-21**

The Pharisees got together and planned how they could trick Jesus into saying something wrong. They sent some of their followers and some of Herod's followers to say to him, "Teacher, we know that you are honest. You teach the truth about what God wants people to do. And you treat everyone with the same respect, no matter who they are.

Tell us what you think! Should we pay taxes to the Emperor or not?"

Jesus knew their evil thoughts and said,

"Why are you trying to test me? You show-offs!

Let me see one of the coins used for paying taxes."

They brought him a silver coin, and he asked,

"Whose picture and name are on it?"

"The Emperor's," they answered.

Then Jesus told them,

"Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God."

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

### Video

Click to watch the video.

[Praise Your Name](#)



## Group Discussion

Invite each person to talk about their relationship with God. How much time in your day do you give to God? How much time do you spend in prayer, or reading bible stories? Are you involved in your parish? How much time do you give to helping others?

## 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 for the leaders of our Church. Lord, hear us.

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

*Reader 2:* We pray for peace and unity in the world. Lord, hear us.

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

*Reader 3:* We pray for those who have nobody to care for them. Lord, hear us.

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

*Reader 4:* We pray for the courage to do what is right. Lord, hear us.

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

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will grow closer to God. 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 God,  
You created us in your image and we belong to you. Fill our hearts with praise for all the wonders you have done for us.  
Amen.

### Tricky questions, wise answers

*You will need: paper, pens, pencils, decorative art supplies.*

The religious leaders asked Jesus a difficult question, but they couldn't trick Jesus. He answered wisely and all the people were amazed.

- 1) Think of a tricky question in your own life that you would like to ask Jesus.
- 2) Write or draw your letter to Jesus asking him that tough question. Decorate your page in any way you choose.
- 3) Spend a few moments in quiet prayer at the end, offering all the prayers in your heart to Jesus.



# USING OUR MONEY TO DO GOOD



*If you had some money...*

What would you like to buy?

What would you get for your mum or dad?

How could you help those who have no money?

