

Children's Liturgy guide

Second Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Luke 9:28-36

We know that God sacrificed His only Son for our sins and the readings this weekend, particularly the Gospel that tells of the Transfiguration, reinforce our belief that Jesus truly is the Son of God. The Saviour of the world came for **all** of us. Therefore, when we see inequality, it is our Christian responsibility to support our sisters and brothers in addressing the problem.

Sharing Scripture – Luke 9:28-36

Read Luke 9:28-36 with the children.

The Apostles must have been afraid and confused when they saw Jesus transfigured, or changed into dazzling white robes, or when they saw the prophets Elijah and Moses, or even still when they heard the voice of God announce Jesus as His "Son" (Luke 9:35). Things must have only gotten worse when Jesus told them that they couldn't even tell anybody what they saw or heard!

However, we know the rest of the story – that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and He rose from the dead, giving us new life with Him. God sacrificing His only Son was an incredible act of love and compassion. It underpins how much He truly cares for every one of us.

Thankfully, we don't have to keep Jesus a secret. In fact, He asks us to share His love with everyone we meet! That's why we must remember to do our best to support our sisters and brothers around the world who are living in poverty every day. By doing this, we are building God's Kingdom here on Earth.

Sometimes this involves personal sacrifice, such as spending time praying, using our talents volunteering or donating money through fundraising.

No matter what we are able to do or give, we should always remember that these are but small sacrifices when compared to the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross. With joyful hearts we can follow His example and proclaim;
"If God is for us, who can be against us?"
(Rom 8:31).



SCIAF

Teleza's Story

Read Teleza Laija's story (below) to the children. SCIAF's partner CADECOM has helped Teleza and her family, and while life can still be very hard, her faith in God shines through in her attitude and outlook on life. An example to us all.

Teleza is from Malawi, she is married and has 6 children. Here are some of her words below –

"Climate change has affected our village here in southern Malawi. Our harvest is inadequate. The village is now facing hunger due to erratic rainfall patterns. We struggle to access water because most boreholes have dried up, and our harvest is poor because it doesn't rain enough.

"I joined the SCIAF-run project. They gave us seeds and they taught us modern farming techniques; they taught us how to make manure, and they gave us goats.

"The goats are helping my family a great deal. When we do not have money, we are able to sell some goats and sort out problems in our home. If it wasn't for SCIAF's help, the struggles of life could have been worse. I am poor, but SCIAF has really helped us.

"I am ready to adapt to climate change if the impacts get worse. We were trained on how we can protect ourselves from the effects of climate change. SCIAF taught us to plant trees, making band ridges. These can help us in case we are struck by famine or water scarcity. Even when it is dry, the band ridges are able to store water.

"I go to church to pray because I know that God solves all problems, and He helps us in different ways. Sadly, most of us do not know this because God does not answer instantly.

"I do believe that one day God will change my situation. That is the reason I come to pray at this church and why I pray. I do believe that God can change the situation, so that the future of my children can be better than what I have faced in my life."

Respond

As Jesus and the Apostles went up a mountain to pray in Luke 9:28, we have also heard that Teleza values prayer in her life and it is something we should value too.

Ask the children to think about one thing they can thank God for and one thing that they want to ask God in prayer. Write these points down and pray together. Use these prayer points each week as you meet during Lent.

Ask the children to think about ways that they can share Jesus to others? What does that look like? How can they be a light to others like Jesus at the transfiguration? Spend some time thinking about how they can respond collectively during Lent to help their sisters and brothers in Malawi. Watch the 'Acts of Hope' video if you have access to the internet at sciaf.org.uk/weebox

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G12PR. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327

