

Children's Liturgy guide

Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Luke 13:1-9

Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross made it possible for our sins to be forgiven. This Sunday's Gospel reading talks of repentance and making changes to our lives to produce 'fruit' that will last.

Sharing Scripture – Luke 13:1-9

Before reading Luke 13:4,5 to the children explain that in ancient times some people thought that tragic, awful events only happened to people who were the worst of 'sinners'.

Read Luke 13:4,5 and explain that Jesus was posing a question by talking about a tragic event that happened where 18 people were killed by a falling tower. He asked the people present, "were these people more guilty than others?" Jesus quickly answers His own question "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

The main point that Jesus was getting across in the first few verses is that everyone, no matter what they have done, must come and repent. Whether in our eyes, we think someone is worse for punching someone over someone stealing a sweetie does not matter. Both need repentance.

When we have sought repentance, Jesus then, in verses 6-9, shares a parable about a fig tree to teach us that our actions need to marry up with our 'new life'. A fig tree that is well looked after and given the chance to produce fruit but doesn't, is like a person that seeks repentance but doesn't live their life in a way that shows they are grateful.

We need to say sorry and repent of the things we do wrong, and then we need to show to others that we belong to God by our 'fruit' (actions and words).

One way that we need to seek repentance is for how we have collectively treated God's creation. We have mistreated creation and it has affected our poorest sisters and brothers the hardest of all.

SCIAF

SCIAF have been working in Malawi for a number of years with partners like CADECOM as part of the global Catholic Church. We not only respond to the devastation caused by natural disasters but we are supporting communities to be better prepared to face the problems caused by climate change. This can be the provision of hardier seeds, the installation of irrigation powered by solar energy, provision of efficient eco-stoves and in training farmers.

Respond

If you have the ability to show a video click [here](#) to show an animation about Laudato Si'. Laudato Si' is an encyclical written by Pope Francis about care for creation. The animation will remind the children of some of the problems that we have created by our actions.

After the animation ask the children to think of ways that we all have mistreated God's creation. The point of this is not to make the children guilty but to recognise that collectively we have contributed to the damage of God's creation and the impact on people. Share some or all of the facts below with the children:

Climate Emergency Factfile

- The climate emergency is happening now around the world, and it's hurting the poorest people first. The past decade was the hottest on record across the world. In Malawi, the past decade has seen the largest shifts in the rainfall pattern, including a mixture of late onset rains and long dry spells during the growing and harvest seasons.
- The majority of crops in Malawi are small rain-fed farms. This means that changes in rainfall greatly affect those who survive by growing their own food to eat.
- More and more extreme weather events are happening around the world every year.
- Over the past five decades, Malawi has experienced more than 19 major floods and seven droughts, with these weather events increasing in frequency, size and scale over the years.
- Between 2000 and 2019 over 475,000 people lost their lives as a direct result of more than 11,000 extreme weather events globally. Millions more people have been affected indirectly through floods, droughts and hunger.
- In 2019 Cyclone Idai hit Malawi completely destroying the homes of over 125,000 people. It was one of the worst tropical storms ever to hit Africa.

Respond in repentance

Try to get hold of a map of the world and ask the children to write down ways that we have mistreated creation. Add the pieces of paper to the world (you could use post-it notes) so that you are left with a visual representation. Take time to pray. Ask God to forgive us for the things that we have done.

Respond with action

Now think and write down ways that we can help look after God's creation. Do the same and stick these on the world. Pray and ask God to help us to put our faith into action. It can be quite depressing thinking of all the damage we have caused in the world but please leave the children with a real sense of hope. In the Gospel message we are asked to repent and then move to produce fruit that will last.

Pray in Hope, Act in Hope.

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

