

# Children's Liturgy guide

## Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Gospel: John 11:1-45

When someone you love is hurting, it hurts you. When a loved one passes away, it takes something of you. While Jesus is fully God, He is also fully human. He experienced physical pain and emotional pain. When his good friend Lazarus died, Jesus cried. He did not doubt that God's strength and power could bring Lazarus back to life (and of course, we see it does) but that did not cover the very real pain that Mary and Martha experienced at the time of Lazarus' passing.

Jesus showed compassion, felt pain and cried. It is comforting to know that God knows what it is like for us when we experience tough times.

### Sharing Scripture – John 11:17-45

Read the piece of Scripture above that covers the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. You may find it useful to act it out if you have willing children.

Without creating a sad mood, ask the children to think of times when they, or people generally, feel sad. After listening to the children, make the point that Jesus understands what it is like to feel loss and feel sad. Tell the children that during this amazing miracle of bringing Lazarus back to life, we read that Jesus cried and showed compassion. Don't underestimate the difference it means to children to know that God understands them.

Share the parallels between this miracle and that of Jesus' resurrection. This account of Lazarus involves a tomb, strips of cloth, deep sadness, a stone rolled away, coming back to life! We can remember all of these things with grateful hearts as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Lazarus was not raised back to life because he was perfect or 'deserved' it. The Bible tells us that he was raised back to life to give glory to God – and for others to see it and turn to God.

### Respond

A good way to respond to hearing this message is to pray and give thanks to God.

Give each child a section of bandage (max 30cm) and discuss a short prayer that you might be able to write on the section of bandage.

Example: 'Father God, thank you that not even death can stop you. Thank you for raising Lazarus back to life, and how this points us to Jesus and the sacrifice he made for me. Amen.'

Ask the children to write their prayer on their bandage and take it home as a reminder of the story and of God's power.

As you close, if technology allows, show the reflection video [here](#)

#### Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

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