



Children's liturgy: Sunday 2 October 2011

Preparing the worship space:

Colour: Green

Props: Children's Harvest Fast Day collection envelopes (available to order from 020 7095 5682), dream sheets or clouds cut out of coloured card.

Song suggestions: All that I am, all that I do (600, Laudate) I, the Lord of sea and sky (865, Laudate) Oh Lord, all the world belongs to you (847, Laudate)

Welcome: In today's gospel Jesus talks to us about a man who has real trouble with the tenants who are looking after his vineyard. Let's think some more about this now.

Opening prayer: Loving God, you sent your son Jesus to show us how to live. Help us to listen to your word and be kind, generous and loving to others. Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm: Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20 r. Is 5:7

Gospel acclamation: *Everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about today's reading?

A man takes good care of his vineyard – he plants grapes in it, builds a fence and a tower and a press for making wine from the grapes – and then when he goes away he asks some other people to look after it for him. These people are his tenants.

When the time comes for the wine to be ready he sends his servants to collect it. What happens to the servants?

Eventually the man sends his son because he thinks the tenants will respect and listen to him. What do the tenants do to the man's son? How do you think the man felt when he heard what the tenants had done?

The tenants were greedy and wanted to keep all the wine for themselves. They didn't want to share it with anyone, not even the man who owned the vineyard. Do

you think this is what Jesus wants us to be like? What does Jesus want us to do?

Jesus told this story so that people could understand more about God and what Jesus had come to do on earth. The different characters in the story represent God, the prophets, who were God's messengers to the people, and Jesus.

Who do you think the man who owns the vineyard is?

Who do you think the servants are who the man sends to deliver a message to the tenants?

Who do you think the son in the story is?

Like the man who gave the vineyard to his tenants to look after, God has given us the earth and all that is in it. God also sent his Son Jesus to show us how to live. We are responsible for making sure that all people are given their fair share and we try to live like Jesus showed us – by caring for others.

But not everyone in the world does get their fair share of all the good things that God has given us. Lots of children around the world live in poverty. They do not get to do the things that we take for granted. For example many children around the world don't have the chance to have fun, to make friends or even to go to school.

How would you feel if you weren't able to play with your toys and have fun with your friends? How would you feel if you couldn't go to school?

Do you think it's fair that some children have all that they need – toys, lots of food, a nice house, the chance to go to school – while other children don't? Why not?

Do you have a dream or hope for the future? What do you want to be or do when you grow up? Many children who are poor don't get the chance to live out their dreams. How do you think that makes them feel?

CAFOD supports children around the world to live in safety, have fun and go to school so that they have the chance to do all that they dream of. Have you heard of CAFOD before? What do you know about the work that CAFOD does?

If you have time you could share a story about CAFOD's work at this point. See the activity suggestions for more details.

The bad tenants in the gospel story thought only about themselves. Jesus asks us to think about other people, to share what we have and to help others so that the world becomes a fairer place for everyone to live and all children have the chance to achieve their dreams.

What will you do to make our world a fairer place?

Intercessions: You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.

We pray for the work of CAFOD: that it may continue to make it possible for children around the world to learn, live somewhere safe and have fun.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people who are poor around the world: that they may have hope for the future and the chance to live out their dreams. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may listen to what God asks of us and work together to make the world a fairer place. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of life, open our ears to listen to your word. Help us always to think of others and to work together so that our dream of a more fair and just world for everyone may come true. Amen.

Activity suggestions:

- Give the children a Children's Harvest Fast Day envelope each (available to order from 020 7095 5682). Ask them to draw or write their dream for a more fair and just world in the bubble. These can be taken up in the offertory procession and then taken home for the children to raise money during the following week.



- Give all the children a dream sheet (available to download from cafod.org.uk/fastday) and ask them to draw or write their dream for a more fair and just world.



- Ask the children to colour in the optional accompanying illustration (available to download from cafod.org.uk/fastday) and to draw or write their dream or a prayer for a more fair and just world in the thought bubble.

- Give the children a cloud shape cut out of card. Ask them to write their prayer for a fairer world on it.

- Tell the children the story of Kabery or one of the other children who has been helped by CAFOD and show them pictures. Details of their stories and photo slideshows you



can download and print can be found at cafod.org.uk/fastday.

- Encourage the children to speak at Mass or at school during the next week and share what they have learnt. A 'Children's speaking for CAFOD activity session' with short talk is available at cafod.org.uk/fastday.

- Ask the children to tell their parents all that they have thought about during the liturgy today. Ask them to talk to their parents about their dreams for the future and their dreams for a fairer world. Ask them to visit the 'Parent' page on CAFOD's website for children Picture My World (cafod.org.uk/picturemyworld), to write their dream for a more fair and just world on the blog together.

- Ask the children to raise money during the week to put in their envelopes so that they can be part of CAFOD's Dream Team, making a fairer world for all children to live in.

More children's liturgy resources for every Sunday from Advent to Easter in Year B are available from cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy