

## Children's liturgy – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

### Preparing for worship

*If you are with the children, prepare the materials. If you are running an online session, let parents know in advance what is needed and suggest they download and print the illustration where possible from [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)*

**Colour:** green

**Song suggestions:** Christ be our light (883, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today we hear about the time when Jesus will come again. We do not know when this will be, but we must try to be ready. Let's think a bit about how we get ready for other special events in our lives today...

**Opening prayer:** Christ Jesus, we know that one day you will come again. Help us to be ready when the time comes. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Daniel 12:1-3

**Psalm:** Psalm 15:5, 8-11 r.1

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

**Gospel:** Mark 13:24-32

"In the days after that time of trouble the sun will grow dark, the moon will no longer shine, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers in space will be driven from their courses. Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in the clouds with great power and glory. He will send the angels out to the four corners of the earth to gather God's chosen people from one end of the world to the other.

"Let the fig tree teach you a lesson. When its branches become green and tender and it starts putting out leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you will know that the time is near, ready to begin. Remember that all these things will happen before the people now living have all died. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

"No one knows, however, when that day or hour will come—neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son; only the Father knows."

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission\*)*

**Gospel reflection:** We often prepare for special events. Can you think of some events that we get ready for?

We get ready to welcome visitors. We prepare when there is going to be a new baby in the family. We prepare for a party or a meal. We get ready for the school play.

All around the world, children get ready to go to school in the morning. They get up, get

washed and dressed, have breakfast and make their way to school ready to learn. When they get home, many children help their parents get dinner ready, so that the family can have something to eat. By doing their homework each night, children everywhere are also learning and preparing for their future.

Do you get ready in any of these ways during your day? Which ones? Can you think of any other ways that you get ready or prepare for things?

In today's gospel Jesus talks about the time when he will come again. Do you remember what he says about when that will be?

Jesus says that nobody except God knows when Jesus will come again. But as his followers we should still try to be ready to greet him when he comes. How do you think we can be ready for Jesus? What kind of people should we be so that we are ready for Jesus?

We can try to be ready by doing all that Jesus asks of us. By loving God and one another and by helping other people. By living in peace with each other and by sharing what we have so that all people have enough.

What will you do so that you can try to be ready when Jesus comes again in glory?

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

We do not know when Jesus will come again and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be an example of generous and welcoming love for all people, leading the way for when Jesus comes again. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all children around the world: that they may have the chance to go to school, to learn and prepare for the future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may always try to be kind, loving and generous to others, so that we may be ready when Jesus comes again. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** God of power, show us how to live in peace and harmony with each other, so that we may be ready to welcome your Son Jesus when he comes again in glory. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a family preparing for a meal and to draw or write on the back what they will do to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Remind the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home and to do their best to try and live so that they will be ready for Jesus when he comes again.

Encourage the children to think about all the children around the world who do similar things to them every time they prepare for something this week – getting ready for school, or bed, or dinner, or a party, etc.

\*Gospel passage taken from:  
Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)  
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