

Children's Liturgy

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

☩ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia's e.g Halle, Halle Halle (sung)

Catechist: Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia's e.g Halle, Halle Halle (sung)

Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21

☩ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (simplified version from the Children's Lectionary)

Glory to you O Lord

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees got together and planned how they could trick Jesus into saying something wrong.

They sent some of their followers and some of Herod's followers to say to him,

"Teacher, we know that you are honest. You teach the truth about what God wants people to do. And you treat everyone with the same respect, no matter who they are. Tell us what you think! Should we pay taxes to the Emperor or not?"

Jesus knew their evil thoughts and said, "Why are you trying to test me? You showoffs! Let me see one of the coins used for paying taxes."

They brought him a silver coin, and he asked, "Whose picture and name are on it?"

"The Emperor's," they answered.

Then Jesus told them, "Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Catechist: The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel reflection - with thanks to the Diocese of Westminster

Some children may need to understand what ‘taxes’ are to appreciate the story today—that it is money paid to the government or rulers of a country to pay for things like libraries, schools, roads, fire stations, hospitals and things we all need together.

It may be helpful to tell the children that at the time of Jesus, the Mediterranean world was ruled by the Romans. The Romans thought their king was a god, and this was a problem for the Jews who knew that there is only one true God. You may want to show a sample (or a picture) of a Roman coin to show the Caesar’s picture on the front. Our money has the Queen’s head on it, but this is not so controversial as she does not think she is a god. Some Jews did not even like using this money at all, to show that they did not believe Caesar was a god.

- Why did the people ask Jesus the question about paying taxes?
- Whose image was on the coin? So who did it belong to?
- In the book of Genesis in the beginning of the Bible, it says that people are made in God’s image. So whose image is on me? Whose image is on [name a child sitting next to you]? [Continue with a few more examples.]
- Who do we belong to?
- If we are to ‘Give to God what belongs to God,’ how do we ‘give’ ourselves to God?

Remind the children that when they were baptised they were marked with the sign of the cross on their forehead to show that they were part of God’s family. Usually when we come into the church we dip our fingers into the water at the holy water font and made the sign of the cross, reminding us of our Baptism. At the moment, because of Coronavirus, we cannot have water in the font so we are not able to do this.

Tell the children that we are going to remind ourselves of the sign that shows we belong to God. The families should have a bowl of water ready. Ask the children and their families at home to come forward one by one and dip their fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross on the forehead of each other. Signing another person can often make the action more significant as it is different to the norm.

There are some worksheets available to print off on the parish website.

Creed:

Catechist: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: Yes, I believe

Catechist: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: Yes, I believe

Catechist: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

All: Yes, I believe

Intercessions:

We pray for all Christians, that, in these difficult times, we may live our lives in a way that reflects God's image to the world. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of all countries, that they may use taxes to do good works. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for people who don't have enough money to buy the things that they need to live. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

We pray for anybody we know who feels like they are picked on by others. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Lord, help us to stand up for what is right and show Jesus' love to all. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**