

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Spirit Parish - Children's Liturgy

Welcome – If you can, sit on the floor with the children and invite them to sit in a circle. Welcome the children and introduce yourselves. If you have a small group, you may invite them to introduce themselves as well.

Introduction: Today we hear about how Jesus called his disciples to follow him. They left what they were doing and went with him straight away. Let's think a bit about how we can follow Jesus in our lives.

(Stand) At this time invite volunteers to hold candles just like the servers do for Father when he proclaims the Gospel

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

“Come and follow me.

Change your lives and follow me.”

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: *Mark 1:14-20*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Glory to you, Lord

Cross on forehead = keep the Gospel in my mind

Cross on lips = keep the Gospel in my speech

Cross on heart = keep the Gospel in my heart

(Gospel to be proclaimed from the Children's Lectionary – Blue Book)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection: *Have the children sit and if you can share the reflection in your own words, or feel free to use the notes below:*

What do you remember from that reading?

Simon and his brother Andrew are fishing by a lake when Jesus asks them to follow him. At once, they leave their fishing nets behind and go with Jesus.

James and John do the same when they are asked. They leave their father behind as well as their boat and their fishing nets. They follow Jesus and become his disciples.

Do you think it was an easy decision for them to make to follow Jesus in this way?

How do you think the people that they left behind, like their families and friends, felt when they left so quickly? How would you feel if you had to leave your family, friends, and all your things behind?

Jesus asks us all to follow him. But, unlike Simon, Andrew, James, and John in this reading, we cannot see Jesus and go with him as he travels around the country. So, what do you think Jesus wants us to do? How can we follow Jesus?

We can follow Jesus by living our lives as he would want us to. By being kind to others, sharing all that we have, and caring for all people, especially those who are poor or sick, so that the world becomes a fairer place for everyone to live in.

How will you follow Jesus this week?

***Creed:** Say the Apostle's Creed together, having the children repeat after you, line by line
Or if you know the song, sing "I Believe" by Cat Chat*

***Intercessions:** (have the children stand for the intercessions)*

Our response is: **Lord hear our prayer**

For the Church throughout the world, that it may continue to follow Jesus' example and reach out to welcome and help those who are poor, sick, and alone, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

For our parish, family, and friends: that we may follow Jesus by sharing what we have with those who do not have enough and forgiving those who have hurt us, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

For our community: that, even if we find it difficult, or others laugh at us, we may stand up for what we believe in and follow Jesus' call, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

Ask the children who they would like to pray for, following each with the Response

Concluding Prayer: Loving God, we ask you to listen to these prayers which we bring to you today in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Activity: *Hand out colouring sheets.*

*Please remind children to return quietly to their family.
Thank you for loving the Lord and sharing His love with these children.*



Family Connection

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus called his first disciples and the immediacy with which these men dropped everything to follow him. We can only begin to imagine what Jesus' presence must have been like to invoke such a response in these first disciples. While a few of us might relate to such a radical conversion, many of us would find such a sudden change in ourselves or in another person unsettling. There are few things for which we would willingly drop everything. And yet this is the immediacy with which these first disciples responded to Jesus. These first disciples were willing to drop everything in order to make Jesus and the Kingdom of God the most important things in their lives.

Gather as a family and talk about circumstances in which you have had to "drop everything." (the call to pick up a sick child from school, the cry of a hurt or angry child) How did you feel about having to change your plans in each of these situations? How do we feel when someone asks us to drop everything to help him or her? For many of us, it is not easy to drop everything to respond to the needs of another.

Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:14–20. Invite your family to imagine what Jesus' presence and invitation to these first followers must have been like that they responded by leaving their livelihood to become his disciples. How might our life



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

“Come and follow me.
Change your lives and follow me.”
Alleluia, alleluia!
“Change your lives and follow me.”

GOSPEL: *Mark 1:14-20*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

When Jesus came to Galilee,
he proclaimed the Good News to the people saying,
“The time you have been waiting for has come!
The reign of God is here!
Change your lives and believe in the Good News!”

A little while later, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew.
They were fishermen
and they were putting their nets into the water.
Jesus called out to them,

“Come and follow me.
From now on you will be gathering people, not fish!”

Simon and Andrew left their boats and their nets immediately
and started to follow Jesus.

Later on, Jesus saw James and his brother John.
They were in their boat taking care of their fishing nets.
Jesus called to them and they too left their boat
and those who were working in the boat with them.
And they went to follow Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.