

2019 WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



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Children's Liturgy

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

World Mission Sunday

You will need:

- The poster of Sr Clara and girls on page 4. Please print on A3 or A4 depending on the size of the group.
- The Pope's Five Finger Prayer and colouring-in picture on pages 5 & 6 – one for each child.

Introduction

In today's reading, Jesus tells a story about a widow and an unjust judge. In the story, Jesus is encouraging his disciples to pray and not give up. God always hears and answers our prayers.

A widow is a woman whose husband has died. In Jesus' time the men worked outside the house to earn money while women were fulltime homemakers. If a woman didn't have a husband or a son to earn money, she became poor, had no status and was forced to rely on other people's kindness.

Does anyone know what a judge is? A judge is an important official appointed to ensure that the law is followed in court cases. A judge must treat everyone equally, be polite and always do what is right even if that makes him or her unpopular.

But the judge in the story is the opposite.

We greet the Gospel

Sing the Gospel Acclamation as the reader holds up the Bible for everyone to see.

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

R/ Glory to you, O Lord

‘Jesus told his disciples a story to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said, “In a city there was a judge who had no respect for anyone. A widow kept coming to the judge and saying to him, ‘Give me justice against my opponent.’ The judge kept on refusing to help her. But later he said to himself, ‘This widow keeps on bothering me so I will grant her justice. Then she can’t wear me out with her continuous demands.’

‘And Jesus said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. Won’t God help those people who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will answer them quickly.”

Luke 18:1-8 (NRSVCE)

The Gospel of the Lord

R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

If time permits you may want to ask the children to act out the Gospel.

We respond

What do you remember about the woman in the story? She never gave up. She was persistent.

Someone who is persistent keeps on trying despite facing difficulties. We might be persistent about doing chores at home that we don’t want to do, or we are persistent when we keep trying to learn something new, like riding a bike or a subject at school that we find hard.

Have you ever been persistent? *Maybe the children practise a sport or a musical instrument.*

The judge gives the woman what she wants because she doesn’t give up and is persistent. Jesus shows us that if someone as cruel and unfair as the judge can respond to the widow, then imagine just how much God, who is loving and kind, responds to our prayers. God invites us to be with him through prayer and he wants to answer us. Jesus says that we are to be persistent in our prayer.

When do you pray? *Invite the children to share times during the day when they pray, such as in the morning, before meals, and before bedtime. Remind them that they can pray silently at any time of day.*

Show the poster of Sr Clara and the girls on page 4.

Today is World Mission Sunday

Today is a special day when the whole Church around the world remembers that Jesus gave us all a mission (a special job) to bring his love to everyone in the world. Some people think this is such a special job that they even travel to places far away from home to share God's love with people who they have never met. Often they go to live with people in very poor and remote areas. Sometimes there is war and fighting. They try hard to show other people what God is like – that he is loving and caring. They are persistent.

Show the poster of Sr Clara and the girls on page 4. This is Sr Clara. Sr Clara is from India and she has spent her whole life caring for girls, like the ones with her on the poster, who have no home or parents to look after them. Sr Clara gives them a loving and safe home so that the girls can go to school. She tells them that they belong to God's worldwide family where everyone is loved and valued.

Sometimes it is hard for Sr Clara to care for so many girls. What kind of things might the girls need? *Suggestions are food, clothes, school, books, a safe place to stay, love and care.* But she persists – she knows that she is doing God's work and that God answers her prayers. Every day, they thank God for everything they have and ask him to keep them all safe, healthy and happy.

Sr Clara knows that the whole Church around the world is praying for her and the girls. She knows that people share what they have so that she can continue her work, and that the girls need not feel sad or lonely anymore. Children like you in parishes and schools also pray and share so that children everywhere may feel God's love. Can you be like Sr Clara and pray to God? Let's start now by thinking of those people who need our prayers.

Activities (pages 5 & 6)

The Pope's Five Finger Prayer is attributed to Pope Francis when he was Archbishop of Argentina. It prompts children to pray not just for themselves, but for others. By using the fingers of their hand, children learn how, through God's love, we are all connected.

Hand out copies of pages 5 and 6. Ask the children to draw or write the names of people who they will pray for this week on page 5. Younger children may like to colour-in the picture on page 6.

Finish the session with Prayers of Intercession

Invite the children to show the group their 'hand' and to say the name of a person they want to pray for this week. Encourage the children to say a name from each finger.

*Finish each prayer with **Lord, in your mercy R/ Hear our prayer***

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Thanks to you Sr Clara rescued these girls from exploitation.

Together we are Mission

Write or draw a picture of someone who needs your prayers

This is the tallest finger. Today I ask God to guide those who make big decisions, like world leaders and Pope Francis

This finger is the weakest, so today I pray for children who are sick, sad or lonely

This is the pointing finger. Today I pray for people who teach me and want the best for me - my teacher, doctor and my priest

Now that I have prayed for everyone else, today I pray for ME!

My thumb is nearest to my heart, so I pray for those closest to me and who love me



When children pray together
it is as though they are giving
the world a great big hug.

Colour in the children and
the world.

