

Prayer and Liturgy at home

29th September 2023

Each week we will be sending out Prayer and Liturgy which you can carry out as a family at home. The theme of the week will be shared with you on a Friday. Prayer and Liturgy is a way of praying and talking to God.

This is a time to come together to:

- Gather—having a quiet reflective place to begin by making the sign of the cross.
- Listen to the Word—A Gospel reading or a Parable to read together and to listen to God.
- Respond by talking about the message of the Gospel—reflecting, meditating, saying prayers, offering thanks for the week.
- Going Forth to share the Word with other family members of the message you would like to give.

We would love to see some examples of you sharing your prayer and liturgy at home as a family through pictures, your responses and just coming together to gather and think about the message of the Gospel.

Prayer and Liturgy:

Gather—have a quiet space with a Bible, a cross and a candle.

Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You can begin with an opening of what the Prayer and Liturgy is about: **This week's Prayer and Liturgy is all about fairness and how we can be fair to each other.**

As we listen to the Gospel, we think about how these people would be grateful to receive the small amount to be able to survive in the world and to be able to help their families. We think about all what we have and how we can share what we have with those around us who need help and care. God wants us all to be fair and generous to each other and to help everyone have enough in their lives to be able to survive.

Word:

Read the Gospel Passage together. This week our Gospel tells us about Jesus and workers who all receive the same wages, even though some worked all day and some just for an hour. It is encouraging to think about why it is fair that everyone received the same amount and some worked all day where some only worked for a short time. Think about what you think fairness means to you and the fairness of activities in your life at home/school.

The Gospel reading according to Matthew: 20: 1-16

“The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a man who went out early in the morning to hire some men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them the regular wage, a silver coin a day, and sent them to work in his vineyard. He went out again to the market place at nine o'clock and saw some men standing there doing nothing, so he told them, ‘You also go and work in the vineyard, and I will pay you a fair wage.’ So they went. Then at twelve o'clock and again at three o'clock he did the same thing. It was nearly five o'clock when he went to the market place and saw some other men still standing there. ‘Why are you wasting the whole day here doing nothing?’ he asked them. ‘No one hired us,’ they answered. ‘Well, then, you also go and work in the vineyard,’ he told them.

“When evening came, the owner told his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with those who were hired last and ending with those who were hired first.’ The men who had begun to work at five o'clock were paid a silver coin each. So when the men who were the first to be hired came to be paid, they thought they would get more; but they too were given a silver coin each. They took their money and started grumbling against the employer. ‘These men who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘while we put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun—yet you paid them the same as you paid us!’

‘Listen, friend,’ the owner answered one of them, ‘I have not cheated you. After all, you agreed to do a day's work for one silver coin. Now take your pay and go home. I want to give this man who was hired last as much as I have given you. Don't I have the right to do as I wish with my own money? Or are you jealous because I am generous?’”

And Jesus concluded, “So those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last.”

This week we have been thinking about fairness.

Respond:

Think about how you can respond to the Gospel reading. This may be by singing a hymn, saying prayers, reflecting on the reading.

You could reflect by thinking about what fairness means to you and your family?

The parable was to teach the disciples that God doesn't treat those that have worked longer better than those who started later. He sees them as equally important to the work in His Kingdom. Knowing this truth should keep all believers from being prideful in how long or how great they believe their work for God is. Just as Jesus taught His disciples that salvation is a gift from God to anyone who accepts it, He also wanted them to know that each person who works in His kingdom will be rewarded in the way God chooses.

Our salvation is a gift from God and we did nothing to earn it and that keeps us from bragging. The same is true about our service for God. Serving God is a gift and we need to serve Him faithfully not thinking that we are any more important than someone else who is serving God in a different way. No one earned their way to heaven and no one has the right to brag about how much or how long they have served God. Each person's work is valuable to God.

We can try hard not to take more than we need and make sure we don't waste food, water or energy. We can be generous with what we have, like the landowner in the story, sharing what we have with others. And we can try to make a change to our world so that it is a fairer place for all people to live.

Respond to the Gospel by thinking about:

As we reflect upon the words we have heard we think about:

- A time when you felt something was unfair? How did you feel? What did you do about it?
- That not everyone in our community, the world has enough money, food, water – is it fair that some people do not have clean water to drink/wash?
- How we can help to make things fair, to share the good things in our lives.
- How can we share the good things we have? What we are good at and how can we help to make sure that all people get their fair share of the good things that God has given us?
- Listen to the song 'We are the World, We are the Children' and think about how you can help the world to be a better place and how to be fair to those around us in our school, Parish community and in the World.

End by praying the Our Father together as a family:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our Daily Bread, and forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Make the sign of the cross together: **In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Go Forth: Think about how as a family you can carry out what is being asked in the Gospel.

Reflect upon the Gospel passage and how fairness was shown to them? Think about how fairness is shown in our world? How can we be fairer to others?

This week as part of our prayer and liturgy reflect upon how you can show fairness, how you can be more like God? Think about how you would like fairness to be shown to you throughout your time in school/at home? How can you be fair in letting others speak, take turns and share the resources you have?

At home use a cup/jar and fill it up when someone has shown fairness to you. Use the cup and pom poms to look at how you can be fair in different ways.

How can show fairness to others?