

Family Liturgy – 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A) Sunday 26 July 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a green cloth on the table or floor (the colour for Ordinary time)
Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Some holy water if you have some or a bowl with water as a reminder of our baptism. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Place some of your value or treasure or any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
Print out sheet if required

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we come together to celebrate the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A.
We ask God to help us today to work for the real treasure he gives to us – himself – the pearl of great price.

Opening prayer: God of love and abundance, help us to listen to you in the Gospel story and to follow you closely. Help us to look for the treasure you give to us and to be ready to do whatever we can to grow close to you. Be with us as we listen to the words of Jesus and help us to join our hearts with his heart. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (13:44-46)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'The kingdom of heaven is what happens when someone finds treasure hidden in a field and buries it again.

A person like that is happy and goes and sells everything in order to buy that field.

The Kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a shop owner is looking for fine pearls. After finding a very valuable one, the owner goes and sells everything in order to buy that pearl'.

The gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the video together <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTJDvd31gpc> (2mins)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder what are some things that have been given to you by your family that you love or treasure?

I wonder what are some of the things that your family values or looks after well and keeps them safe?

I wonder what you could do if you really want something and need to buy it?

I wonder what gifts you have been given by God?

I wonder which gift or gifts given to you by God that you treasure?

I wonder if you value or treasure the gift of life, of friends, of family? I wonder how you show this?

I wonder if you value and do everything you can to grow close to God?

I wonder what this means for you in action?

I wonder what words you hear Jesus speaking to you in your hearts as you prepare to meet him in the Sacraments?

I wonder what the message of this story is for you and your family?



<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/parables-kingdom-heaven/>

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

Yes Lord I Believe by John Burland <https://youtu.be/7MR2iGDyUtE> (3 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Pat and all Church and world leaders: that they will lead us in a way that we can see and value what is important for us in our relationship with God Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time especially during this COVID-19 outbreak: that they may feel the love and care of others who help to relieve their suffering and to know that they are deeply loved by God. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for all people in our parishes and in our communities: that they will treasure all that God has given to them and be thankful. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pray for all people, especially for children, who are looking forward to receiving the Sacraments for the first time: that they will prepare well to receive Jesus into their hearts and do all they can to grow closer to God. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

5 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*) Lord, hear us **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that they will now be united with Jesus and share in his joy. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: God who calls us to be close, we believe in your love - you are the Creator of the world. We believe in your love – you sent Jesus to show us how to live a life of faith. We believe in your love – because of the Holy Spirit who breathes life through us and guides us. Amen.

Closing song: *True Colours Shine* by Michael Mangan <https://youtu.be/eo6qZAUuQ3E> (3 mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer in your prayer journal (special note book).
- Ask the children to write a prayer to Jesus to thank him for bringing us God's message of love. Let us tell him how we want to show him our love. Add to this prayer journal each day.
- Make a choice to do something each day to grow close to Jesus and make our true self shine. <http://www.truthforkids.com/display/Search?moduleId=8770548&searchQuery=treasure>
- Colouring page of man who sold everything he owned to buy the field <https://www.sundayschoolsources.com/classmat/images/TREASUR2.GIF>
- Draw a story picture board of what happened in this story with captions
- Hidden treasure and the pearl puzzle https://sermons4kids.com/parables_of_the_kingdom_spiral.htm
- Explore how people before us have left everything to go and spread God's message of love to other people https://www.catholic.org/saints/fun_facts_arch.php