

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
5 November 2023 – Year A

“The scribes and the Pharisees do not practise what they preach.”

Something to Think About

If you were in charge of the world, what rules would you create? Why would these rules be important?

The Story

Jesus referred to the religious leaders as hypocrites - people who said one thing and did something different. Jesus criticises them for showing off, acting important, taking the best seats, and having people call them by fancy titles. Jesus encourages his listeners to be humble, to put others first, and to place God before all else.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

"The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law are experts in the Law of Moses. So obey everything they teach you, but don't do as they do. After all, they say one thing and do something else. They pile heavy burdens on people's shoulders and won't lift a finger to help them. Everything they do is just to show off in front of others. They even make a big show of wearing Scripture verses on their foreheads and arms, and they wear big tassels for everyone to see. They love the best seats at banquets and the front seats in the meeting places. And when they are in the market, they like to have people greet them as their teachers.

But none of you should be called a teacher. You have only one teacher, and all of you are like brothers and sisters. Don't call anyone on earth your father. All of you have the same Father in heaven. None of you should be called the leader. The Messiah is your only leader. Whoever is the greatest should be the servant of the others. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video.

[Who were the Scribes and Pharisees?](#)



Group Discussion

Encourage the children to think about the sort of person they believe themselves to be. They might describe themselves in terms of what is important to them, how they try to live and how they treat other people. If they were asked to write a profile of themselves - what would they say?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will practise what they preach. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will be humble in our words and actions. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for teachers and principals who help us follow important rules. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will help our family members at home without being asked. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will show our love for God through the way we treat others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Help us to match our words with our actions and to put others before ourselves. Help us to be honest and sincere in all we do.

Group Activity

All About Me

You will need: "All About Me" template for each child, colouring pencils or markers. Option: collage paper to make clothes, wool for hair etc...

- 1) Ask children to think about how they would describe themselves e.g. I like to help people, I love animals, I am friendly.
- 2) Invite children to draw or write one characteristic in each of the bubbles.
- 3) Then ask children to add a face, clothes, hair, shoes and so on to the figure of the person so it looks like them.



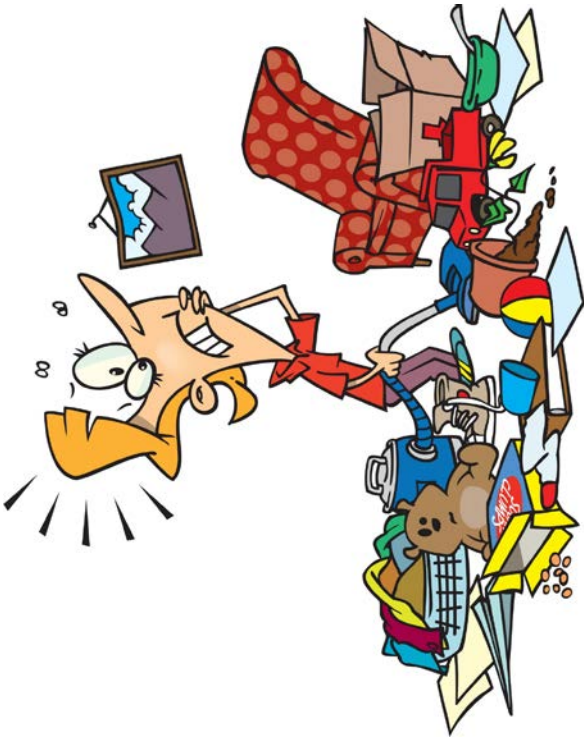
All About Me



WHOEVER IS THE GREATEST SHOULD BE THE SERVANT, HELPING OTHERS

SHOW HOW YOU HELP SOMEONE AND LIFT THEIR BURDENS

HOW I MAKE A BURDEN FOR OTHERS



HOW I HELP TO LIFT THE BURDEN

