

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A
10 May 2026
John 14:15-21

Catechist Background

At the beginning of John's Gospel, two disciples asked Jesus, 'Where are you staying?' to which he replied, 'Come, and you will see.' In today's Gospel reading, which took place shortly before his arrest, Jesus gave the answer: he lives in God the Father and in his followers. Today's reading follows on from last Sunday's, and develops what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Last week we focused on Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life (and how by following him, we come closer to the Father). This Sunday Jesus talks about loving God, and about the Trinity.

The Greek word that is translated into English as 'Advocate' (or 'Paraclete') in this passage is a word taken from Greek legal jargon, and is roughly equivalent to a defence lawyer. It means one who acts as a spokesman, mediator, intercessor, comforter, consoler, helper, teacher and guide.

Setting the Scene

For the activity, you will need three hoops of the same size, or you could use cut-out circles of card. (If coloured, use purple for the Father; white or yellow/gold for the Son; red for the Spirit).

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord, You bring us to your truth, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You have sent us your Spirit to guide us, Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You promised never to leave us alone, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, help us to continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection by how we live and treat others. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel John 14:15-21

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

In today's Gospel, we hear something that Jesus told his disciples the night before he died. He was trying to prepare his friends for a time when he wouldn't be around.

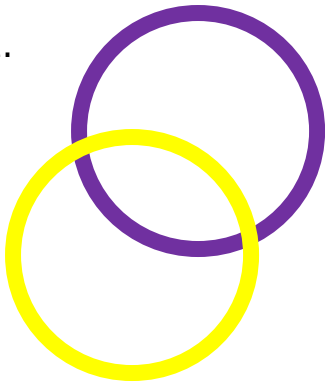
- How do you think Jesus' friends would have felt when he said this? (a bit confused)
- How do you think they felt after he had died? (worried, angry, sad, lonely)
- Has anyone here ever been lonely or sad because you missed someone? How did you feel?
- What did Jesus say that might have made them a bit more hopeful? (that he would send his Spirit to them, to comfort them and help them understand).

Response

Christians use a complicated word to describe God: "Trinity". Let's think about what it means:

- Hold up another hoop (ideally purple), and say that it represents God the Father.
- Hold up one hoop (ideally a white or yellow/gold one), and say that this represents Jesus.
- Jesus said that he is in his Father. Put the second hoop below the first hoop so that they overlap as in the image (1) below:

1.



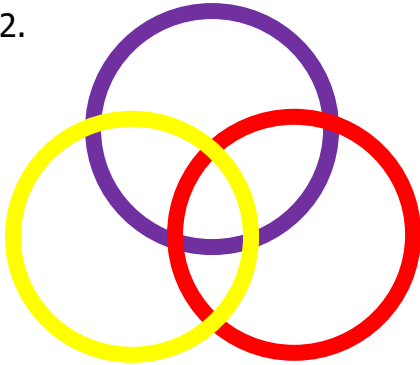
Explain:

- Jesus is in God the Father;
- Jesus is in us.
- When we love Jesus, we are loving God the Father too.

Jesus also said that he would send an Advocate, the Holy Spirit to be with us.

- Hold up another hoop (ideally red) and say this represents the Holy Spirit who is linked to God the Father and Jesus.
- Put the third hoop in place so that it overlaps the first two, as in the image below (2).

2.



Explain:

- The Holy Spirit is linked to God the Father and to Jesus;
- the Holy Spirit is also in us;
- So, that means we are linked to God the Father and to Jesus too!
- When we do what we know is right, we are following the Holy Spirit in us.

If the hoops/circles are large enough and if there is time, lay them on the floor in this shape.

- Let each child stand in turn in the hoop that represents the Holy Spirit;
- Remind them that they always have a helper (the Holy Spirit) with them.

We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting them to reply, 'I do, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

- Do you believe in God the Father who created all things?
- Do you believe in Jesus the Son who died for us but then came back to life?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Helper sent to us as Jesus promised?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying, 'We know Jesus lives in us, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for all Christians, especially those who are struggling. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray that everyone in the world will learn that God loves them. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people who don't have a safe place to live. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for anyone who is missing someone they love. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, help us to listen to the Holy Spirit and show your love to those we meet. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**