

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

COMPANION ANIMALS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Instructions for the apostles (Matthew 10: 24-39)

After Jesus commissions the twelve apostles to go out on their first mission, Matthew presents a collection of teaching to equip them for that work. The teaching contains two main ideas. First, the apostles can expect to be treated no better than Jesus himself is treated. They will be persecuted. Second, God cares about them and will take care of them. Their God cares for the sparrows and they are of more value than many sparrows.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *companion animals*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 10: 29-31)

Jesus said, 'Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
Yet not one of them will fall to the ground
unperceived by your Father.
And even the hairs of your head are all counted.
So do not be afraid;
you are of more value than many sparrows.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you show care for all birds and beasts.
Help us to share your concern
for all living creatures,
that we too may know
your care for us;
now and always.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Jesus' teaching to equip the twelve apostles for their work in Matthew 10: 24-39:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you read Jesus' emphasis on equality between disciple and teacher?
- how do you feel about Jesus' warning that the disciples will face the same criticism as the teacher?
- how do you read Jesus' teaching that he has not come to bring peace but a sword?
- how helpful do you find the teaching about the sparrows?
- what does the narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Compare other places in Matthew's Gospel that speaks of God's care for birds or animals:

- Matthew 6: 26
- Matthew 12: 12

Compare a similar saying recorded by Luke:

- Luke 12: 6

Explore images of birds in the Old Testament:

- Psalm 84: 3

Exploring online

- explore *images* of sparrows in the Bible
- explore *images* of companion animals
- explore how to make an origami bird

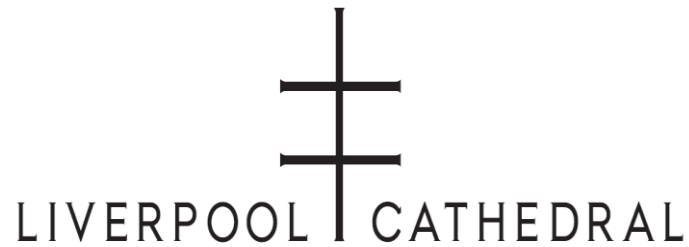
Drawing on experience

- what is your experience of companion animals?
- what is your experience of watching birds?
- what is your experience of God valuing you?

PROPER 7 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020

Creating and making

- make an origami bird to place in your home
- make a collage of images of birds, 'God cares for the sparrows'
- make a poster displaying companion animals, 'God cares for us'
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of companion animals



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Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

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