

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

### WELCOME

#### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

##### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

###### *Welcoming Jesus (Matthew 10: 40-42)*

Matthew's account of Jesus' teaching for the apostles before they went out on their missionary journey ends with these verses. People who welcome those whom Jesus sends welcome Jesus himself. People who welcome Jesus welcome the Father who sent him. In other words, those who are sent in Jesus' name represent Jesus in every sense of that word.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *welcome*.

##### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 10: 40-42)*

Jesus said, 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,  
and whoever welcomes me  
welcomes the one who sent me.  
Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet  
will receive a prophet's reward;  
and whoever welcomes a righteous person  
in the name of a righteous person  
will receive the reward of the righteous;  
and whoever gives even a cup of cold water  
to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple –  
truly I tell you,  
none of these will lose their reward.'

##### *Gospel prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
everyone who welcomes your people  
welcomes you.  
Help us to see you  
in the people we meet,  
that we may welcome you  
through serving the needs of others;  
today and always.  
Amen.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on Jesus' teaching about welcoming in Matthew 10: 40-42:

- 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 this passage in the context of Jesus commissioning the twelve apostles?
- why do you think Matthew is referring to prophets?
- what is the significance of a cup of cold water?
- how helpful do you find the image of *welcome* for reflecting on the ministry of God's people?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

### ***Using your Bible***

Explore how Matthew's theme of welcoming Jesus through welcoming others is reflected by Mark and Luke:

- Mark 9: 37-41
- Luke 9: 48

Explore the theme of welcoming prophets in the Old Testament:

- 1 Kings 17: 10-15
- 2 Kings 4: 8-11

### ***Exploring online***

- explore words for welcome in other languages
- explore images for welcome mats
- explore welcome cards for churches

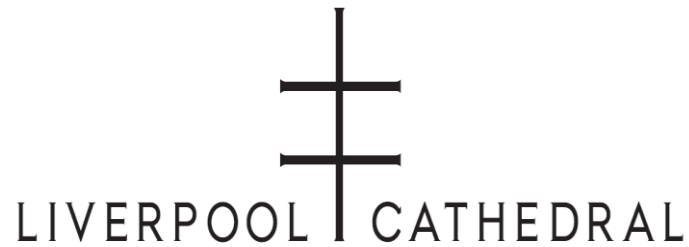
### ***Drawing on experience***

- reflect on your experiences of being made to feel welcome
- reflect on occasions when you have made others feel welcome
- reflect on your experience of encountering Jesus within the welcome

## PROPER 8 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2020

### *Creating and making*

- make a poster displaying the words for welcome in many languages, 'In welcoming others we welcome Jesus'
- make a welcome card to place in your home and to bring to the eucharist
- create a collage illustrating Matthew's teaching on welcoming Jesus through other people
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of welcome



## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

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](mailto:Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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