



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time



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## Overview

The readings for the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time offer an important message for children and those who lead CLoW: God is always with us, so we do not need to be afraid.

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah feels alone and worried because people are against him. Even though he is frightened, he trusts that God is with him and will help him. Children can relate to Jeremiah's feelings. They may sometimes feel nervous about making friends, trying something new, speaking in front of others, or standing up for what is right. Jeremiah teaches us that we can turn to God whenever we feel scared or uncertain.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples three times, "Do not be afraid." He reminds them that God knows and loves them completely. Jesus says that God even knows how many hairs are on each person's head! This is a wonderful image for children because it helps them understand how special they are to God. Nothing about their lives is too small for God to notice or care about.

The second reading reminds us that Jesus came to bring us life, hope, and grace. When we make mistakes or face difficulties, Jesus is always ready to help us begin again.

The readings provide leaders with an opportunity to help children recognize that faith is not about never being afraid. Rather, it is about knowing that God is with us when we are afraid. Leaders can invite children to share what worries them, then reflect on how Jesus' words, "Do not be afraid," can bring comfort and courage.

### key Messages for Children

- † God Knows and Loves You
- † Do Not Be Afraid
- † Trust God When Things Are Difficult
- † Be Proud to Follow Jesus
- † God's Love Is Bigger Than Our Mistakes

### Key Messages for Leaders

- † Help children recognize God's personal love.
- † Connect faith to everyday fears and challenges.
- † Encourage trust rather than perfection.

### Leader's Personal Reflection Questions

- † How have I experienced God's presence during times of fear, uncertainty, or challenge?
- † Do my words, actions, and attitude communicate to children that they are known, valued, and loved by God?
- † Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid." What fears or worries am I carrying at this time, and how is God inviting me to place greater trust in Him so that I may lead others with confidence and hope?

### Leader Takeaway

- † God loves you.

## Background

**Jeremiah 20:10–13** Jeremiah encounters those who threaten him, and despite his fear, he finds strength in his unwavering faith in God. This trust transforms Jeremiah's fear into heartfelt praise, as he expresses gratitude for God's rescue of those in need. Much like Jeremiah, we can bring our worries to God, confident that God will grant us courage and support, reminding us that we are never truly alone. This powerful message inspires us to lean on God during challenging times and cherish God's constant care and protection.

**Psalms 69:** The psalmist expresses his feelings of rejection, loneliness, and suffering as he prays to God. Despite feeling misunderstood, he trusts in God's love and mercy and asks for God's help. The psalm concludes with hope and praise for God's care. It reminds us that we can share our feelings with God, who listens and never abandons us.

**Romans 5:12–17:** St. Paul teaches that sin entered the world through Adam, bringing suffering and death. However, God offers hope through Jesus, who provides grace, forgiveness, and new life. While Adam's choice introduced sin, Jesus' obedience brings salvation and restores our relationship with God. Everyone makes mistakes, but God's love is greater, and He sent Jesus to forgive us and guide us closer to Him. This reminds us that Jesus invites us to start anew.

**Matthew 10:26–33** Jesus tells His disciples not to be afraid, even when they face difficulties because of their faith. He reminds them that God cares for them deeply—even knowing every hair on their heads. If God watches over the sparrows, God certainly watches over God's own children.

Jesus encourages His followers to trust in God's love and to be courageous in living and sharing their faith. Sometimes we feel afraid, nervous, or worried about what others might think of us. Jesus reminds us that God knows us, loves us, and is always with us. We do not have to be afraid because God cares for us more than we can imagine. When we are kind, honest, and loving, we show others that we belong to Jesus and trust in His care.

## The Liturgy

### Procession from the main Church

At the proper moment, the priest invites the children to come forward. The leaders may come forward and stand facing the altar with the children. The priest then addresses the children.

**Dear children, today Jesus reminds us, "Do not be afraid." God knows each of you, loves you, and is always with you. As you listen to God's Word now, may you learn more about trusting in God's love and care.**

**Go in peace to hear the Word of God, and may the Lord be with you. We will welcome you back after your reflection.**

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

### Welcome

The leaders help the children sit and prepare. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

**Let us quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

**Father,  
protector of your people,  
keep us always in your love.  
Grant this through Christ, our Lord.  
— Amen**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, at a minimum, proclaim the Gospel.

## READINGS

### First Reading

Jeremiah 20.10-13

A reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah cried out: "I hear many whisperings: 'Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him."

But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore, my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Observe a period of silence after the reading.

**R.** Lord, in your steadfast love, answer me.

It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,  
that shame has covered my face.  
I have become a stranger to my kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.  
It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;  
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. **R.**

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord.  
At an acceptable time, O God,  
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.  
With your steadfast help, rescue me.  
Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;  
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me. **R.**

Let the oppressed see it and be glad;  
you who seek God, let your hearts revive.  
For the Lord hears the needy,  
and does not despise his own that are in bonds.  
Let heaven and earth praise him,  
the seas and everything that moves in them. **R.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned. Sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.

Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

The word of the Lord.

Observe a period of silence after the reading.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his Apostles:

"Fear no one, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from 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.

"Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

### First Reading

Jeremiah 20.10-13

It can feel scary when people say something mean, but God is still with you. God knows your heart and your mind, so you don't have to pretend or panic.

Always choose hope. Trust in the Lord and do good. God wants you to live in peace and safety, and he will help you when things feel hard.

You can also remember this: "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him." Don't let worry make you do wrong. Instead, turn to God—he sees, he cares, and he will act in his time.

And when God helps you, sing and praise him, because he delivers people who need help.

**R.** Lord, please answer me.

Sometimes when you try to do what is right—  
like being kind, praying, and loving God—  
people might not understand you,  
or they might say hurtful things.  
But God sees you and is with you. **R.**

Lord, listen to me.  
You are full of loving-kindness.  
With your help, rescue me.  
Lord, your love is good.  
Because you are so merciful, turn to me and be close. **R.**

People can make mistakes—and when that happens, it can hurt not only the person who made the mistake but others as well. The Bible says that's why sadness and death spread among people. But here is the good news: God's gift is even bigger than sin.

God gives a free, loving gift through Jesus Christ. And because of Jesus, grace can win—more than fear or wrong can ever win.

So the Bible teaches: when sin increases, God's grace increases even more. Trust Jesus, and you can be made right with God and live with hope.

Jesus told his friends: "Don't be afraid."

He said that God knows everything—even things people try to hide. Nothing stays hidden or secret that will not be disclosed or uncovered. So, when you hear something whispered (like a secret that isn't good), Jesus wants you to choose truth and do the right thing, not fear or hide and even says shout it from the rooftops.

Jesus also reminds you that people can hurt your body, but God cares for your whole life—your soul and heart. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

Then he gives a wonderful picture: God pays attention even to tiny sparrows, and God knows you even more than that. God even knows the hairs on your head—so you never have to feel alone.

And Jesus says: If you speak about him with your words and kindness, God will be happy and proud of you. When you're tempted to hide or be ashamed, ask Jesus to help you be brave and truthful.

## Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions.

### **What did you hear?**

Have you ever been afraid of something? Maybe a loud thunderstorm, a dark room, the first day of school, or trying something new?

### **What is something that sometimes makes you feel afraid?**

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells His friends something very important. He says, "Do not be afraid." Jesus knows that everyone feels scared sometimes. Even grown-ups can feel afraid! Jesus wants us to remember that God is always with us. Jesus tells us that God watches over the little sparrows, which are tiny birds.

### **Have you ever seen a bird outside? Where did you see it?**

If God cares for the birds, imagine how much He cares for you! Jesus says that God knows each one of us so well that He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

### **Do you think God knows your name?**

Yes! God knows your name, your smile, your favourite games, and the things that make you happy or sad. God loves you very much.

### **Who do you like to be with when you feel scared or worried?**

Just as your parents, grandparents, or friends help you feel safe, God is always close to you. You can talk to Him anytime through prayer. When you feel afraid, you can say: "Jesus, help me." "Jesus, stay with me." "Jesus, I trust in You."

### **Can we all say together, "Jesus, I trust in You"?**

Jesus also wants us to show others that we are His friends. We do that by being kind, sharing, helping, and telling the truth.

### **What is one kind thing you can do for someone this week?**

Whenever you feel worried or afraid, remember today's Gospel message: God knows you. God loves you. God is always with you. And because God is always with you, Jesus says: "Do not be afraid!"

## Alternative Reflection

This reflection is for older children, teenagers, or even young adults. It may provide CLoW leaders with a broader perspective, using the Church readings.

Have you ever been nervous about something? Maybe giving a presentation at school, joining a new team, making a new friend, or standing up for what is right?

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples three times, "Do not be afraid." But does Jesus mean that we will never feel afraid? No. Everyone feels afraid sometimes. Even the disciples did. Jesus is teaching us that when fear comes, we do not face it alone. God is with us. Jesus points to something small—a sparrow. Sparrows are tiny birds that many people hardly notice. Yet Jesus says that God notices every one of them. Jesus wants us to know that if God cares about every sparrow, He certainly cares about every one of us. God knows us completely. He knows our strengths, our struggles, our hopes, and our worries.

Sometimes it can be difficult to follow Jesus. We might be tempted to join in gossip, leave someone out, laugh when others are being teased, or stay silent when someone needs help. Jesus asks us to be brave and choose what is right.

Being courageous doesn't mean never being afraid. Courage means doing the right thing even when we feel afraid. When Jeremiah faced people who wanted to hurt him, he trusted God. The Psalm reminds us that God listens when we call for help. St. Paul reminds us that Jesus came to save us because God loves us.

Whenever you feel worried, remember that God knows your name, hears your prayers, and walks beside you every day.

### Reflection Questions

1. What is something that makes you feel nervous or afraid?
2. How does it make you feel to know that God knows you and loves you?
3. When has it been hard for you to do the right thing?

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

## The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

**Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid," because God knows us, loves us, and cares for us. Trusting in God's love, let us bring our prayers before Him.**

Assistant:

**For the Church throughout the world, that all people may know God's love and care, we pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For our Pope, bishops, priests, deacons, and all who lead God's people, that they may help others trust in Jesus, we pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For children who feel afraid, lonely, or worried, that they may know Jesus is always with them, we pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For our families, teachers, and friends, that they may show kindness and love to one another, we pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For all of us gathered here today, that we may remember Jesus' words, "Do not be afraid," and trust in God every day, we pray to the Lord. R:**

The Leader says:

**Loving God, you know each of us by name and care for us always. Hear the prayers we bring before You and help us to trust in Your love each day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

## Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.

**Please note that the Handouts are available at:**

**Bulletin: TheKidsBulletin.com – Goodwill donation suggested**

**Quiz Handout provided by: thewordthisweek.net**



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700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

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Handouts: please download from:

Bulletin: TheKidsBulletin.com – **Goodwill donation suggested**

Quiz Handout provided by thewordthisweek.net


NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_


# Matthew 10:26-33





1. What does Jesus say about things that are hidden or covered?

- A. nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed 
- B. they will stay hidden forever
- C. only smart people know them
- D. they are a secret


2. Where should you speak what Jesus tells you in the dark?

- A. whisper it quietly 
- B. shout it from the rooftops
- C. keep it to yourself
- D. write it in a diary




3. Who does Jesus say we should not fear?

- A. whisper it quietly 
- B. shout it from the rooftops
- C. keep it to yourself
- D. write it in a diary 


4. Which of these can kill both soul and body in hell?

- A. fear 
- B. money
- C. the one who destroys the soul
- D. other people



5. Are sparrows expensive birds according to Jesus?

- A.  very expensive 
- B.  not expensive at all 
- C.  kind of expensive
- D.  free 



6. What did Jesus say happens to every single sparrow?

- A.  they get lost 
- B.  not one falls to the ground without the Father knowing
- C.  they fly far away
- D.  they are forgotten

7. Are people considered more valuable than many sparrows?

- A.  yes, much more valuable 
- B.  no, sparrows are equal
- C.  people are less valuable 
- D.  they are different

8. What does Jesus say will happen to those who acknowledge Him before others?

- A.  He will ignore them 
- B.  He will acknowledge them before His Father in heaven
- C.  they will be unpopular 
- D.  they will be rich

# Don't Worry! God Cares About You!

In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells us not to fear those who can kill us. He tells us that God pays attention to the sparrows, which are just little birds. How much more He cares about us, His people!



Please help me, Lord!

I feel all alone...  
But God is still with me!



What Jesus says reminds us that we should always remember that God loves and cares for us. We don't need to live in fear, because God always wants what is best for us.

Sometimes bad things happen to us - we can become poor, we can lose friends, we can get hurt or sick. But God is still caring for us through those times. These things can help remind us of how much we need God. Just food and possessions and other people and even our health are not enough

Every time you see a picture of Jesus remember that God is caring about you right now! Thank Him for His love and try to share His love and care with those around you!



I can help look after the baby!

# The Kids' Bulletin

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

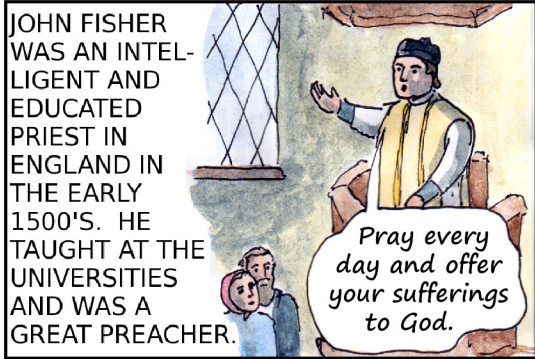


In today's Gospel reading Jesus says that God sees even little things. What little things did He mention? Connect the dots to find out!

Answers to Fill-in-the-Blanks: LIGHT, PROCLAIM, BODY, CANNOT, FEAR, SPARROWS, PENNY, FATHERS, OF, NOT, MORE, EVERYONE, BEFORE, BUT, God cares for you!

# Saint John Fisher

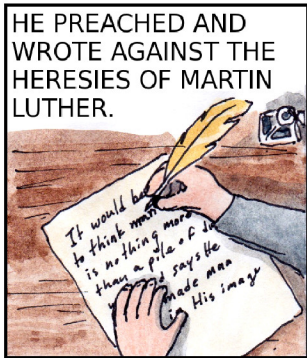
June 22



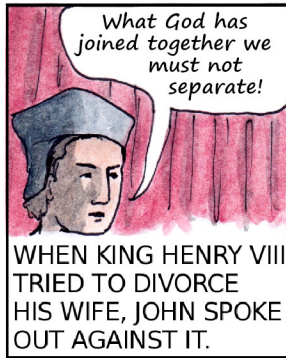
JOHN FISHER WAS AN INTELLIGENT AND EDUCATED PRIEST IN ENGLAND IN THE EARLY 1500'S. HE TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITIES AND WAS A GREAT PREACHER.



HE TAUGHT THE FUTURE KING HENRY THE EIGHTH AMONG OTHERS, AND WAS MADE A BISHOP.



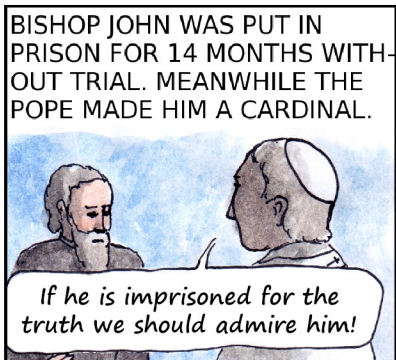
HE PREACHED AND WROTE AGAINST THE HERESIES OF MARTIN LUTHER.



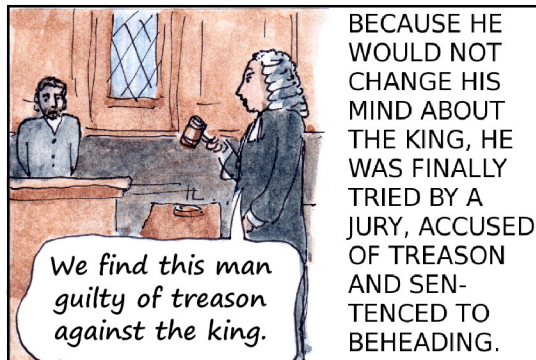
WHEN KING HENRY VIII TRIED TO DIVORCE HIS WIFE, JOHN SPOKE OUT AGAINST IT.



HE ALSO REFUSED TO SIGN DOCUMENTS THAT CLAIMED THE KING AS HEAD OF THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND.



BISHOP JOHN WAS PUT IN PRISON FOR 14 MONTHS WITHOUT TRIAL. MEANWHILE THE POPE MADE HIM A CARDINAL.



BECAUSE HE WOULD NOT CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT THE KING, HE WAS FINALLY TRIED BY A JURY, ACCUSED OF TREASON AND SENTENCED TO BEHEADING.

SAINT JOHN FISHER DID NOT FEAR THE KING'S ANGER, SINCE HE KNEW THAT OBEYING GOD'S LAW IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING ALIVE. HE SPOKE THE TRUTH EVEN WHEN IT WAS VERY HARD. YOU CAN PRAY TO ST. JOHN FISHER WHEN YOU FEEL PRESSURED TO GIVE IN AND AGREE WITH THINGS THAT ARE WRONG.

# Fill-in-the-Blanks

Fill in the blank spaces with the words from the list. Use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks at the end!

What I tell you in the dark,  
 utter in the \_\_\_□\_\_\_;  
 and what you hear whispered,  
 \_\_\_□\_\_\_ upon the  
 housetops. And do not fear those  
 who kill the \_\_\_□\_\_\_  
 but □\_\_\_ kill the soul;  
 rather \_\_\_□\_\_\_ him who can kill  
 both body and soul in Hell.  
 Are not two \_\_\_□\_\_\_  
 sold for a \_\_\_□\_\_\_?  
 And not one of them will fall to the ground  
 without your \_\_\_□\_\_\_ will.  
 But even the hairs \_\_\_□\_\_\_ your head  
 are numbered.

SPARROWS  
 EVERYONE  
 PROCLAIM  
 FATHER'S  
 CANNOT  
 BEFORE  
 PENNY  
 LIGHT  
 MORE  
 BODY  
 FEAR  
 NOT  
 BUT  
 OF

Fear \_\_\_□\_\_\_, therefore;  
 you are of \_\_\_□\_\_\_ value than many sparrows.  
 So \_\_\_□\_\_\_  
 who acknowledges me before men,  
 I also will acknowledge  
 \_\_\_□\_\_\_ my Father who is in heaven;  
 \_\_\_□\_\_\_ whoever denies me before men, I also  
 will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_!