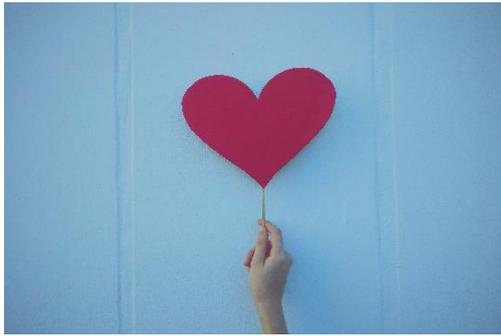


# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

19 February 2023 - Year A

***"Love your enemies."***

### Something to Think About

Can you remember a time when you needed to forgive, and even love, someone who had hurt you?

### The Story

Jesus' message today is that he expects us to be forgiving, generous and loving – even when others treat us badly. This is a big challenge! It is easy to love people who love us, but not so easy to love people that are unkind to us. If people hurt us, we sometimes want to hurt them back. But this is not God's way.

### The Scriptures

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

**5:38-48**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You know that you have been taught, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'  
But I tell you not to try to get even with a person who has done something to you.

"When someone slaps your right cheek, turn and let that person slap your other cheek.

If someone sues you for your shirt, give up your coat as well.

If a soldier forces you to carry his pack one mile, carry it two miles.

When people ask you for something, give it to them.

When they want to borrow money, loan it to them.

"You have heard people say, 'Love your neighbours and hate your enemies.'

But I tell you to love your enemies and pray for anyone who mistreats you.

Then you will be acting like your Father in heaven.

"He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people.

And he sends rain for the ones who do right and for the ones who do wrong.

"If you love only those people who love you, will God reward you for that?

Even tax collectors love their friends.

If you greet only your friends, what's so great about that? Don't even unbelievers do that?

But you must always act like your Father in heaven."

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

### Video

Click to watch the video: [Be Kind to Others](#)



## Group Discussion

Jesus wants us to be people who are always ready to love and forgive others.

How can you show love to your friends? How can you show love to your family?

How might you show love to someone you don't know very well, or someone you don't even like?

## 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 build good relationships. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for reconciliation between countries who are at war. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for those who cause suffering to others. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for peace and forgiveness in our families and communities. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray for the people we find difficult to love. 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 be patient and forgiving.  
Walk with us as we try to show love  
to all people.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

### GROW IN LOVE FOR EVERYONE

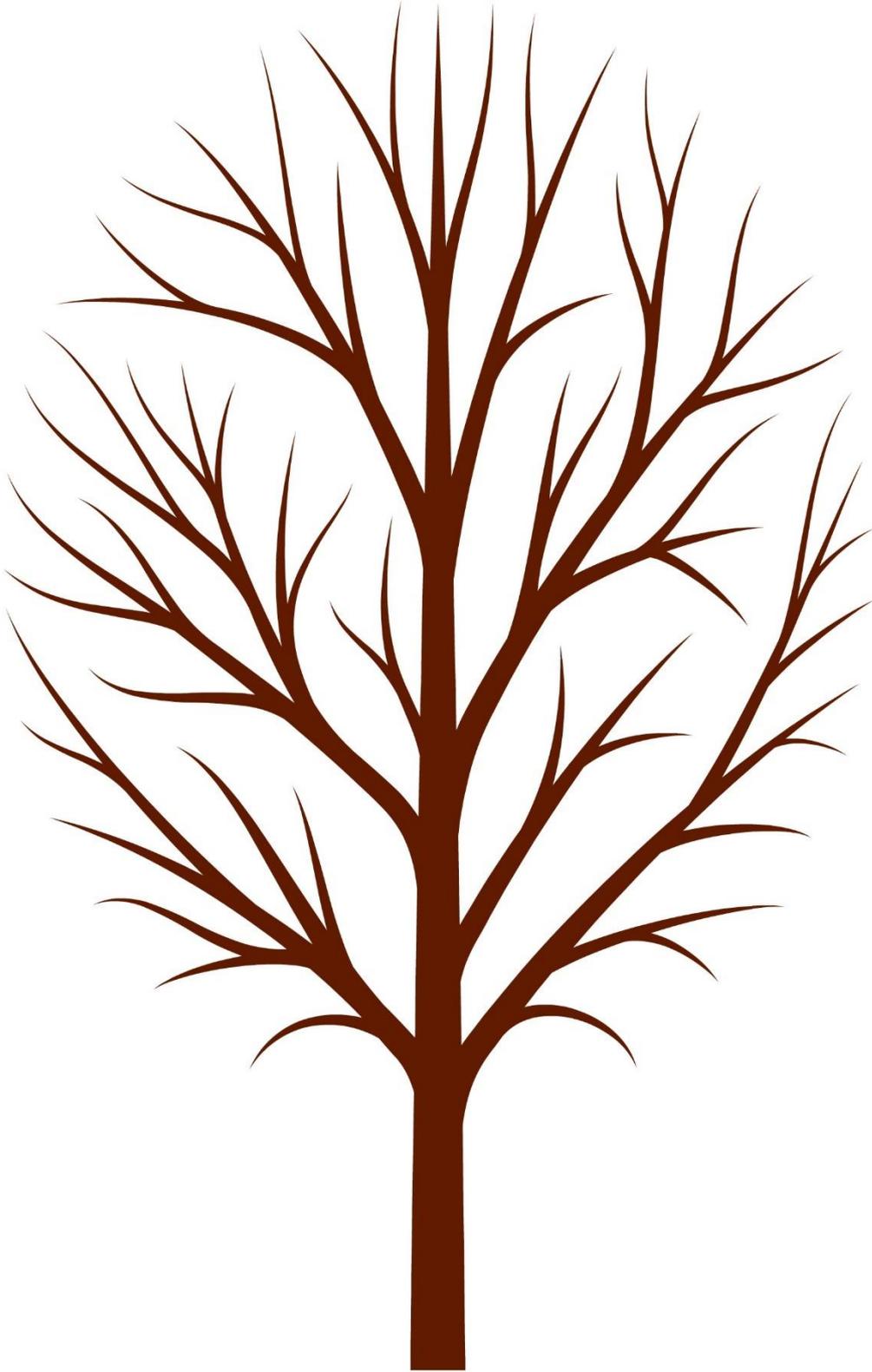
*You will need: a tree template for each child, glue, heart cut-outs or stickers in a variety of colours (a small paper heart punch is helpful).*

- 1) Ask children to think about all the people they might see this week and some ways they might show love to them (a smile, a kind word..)
- 2) Children then spread glue all over the branches of the tree and glue on the heart cut-outs.

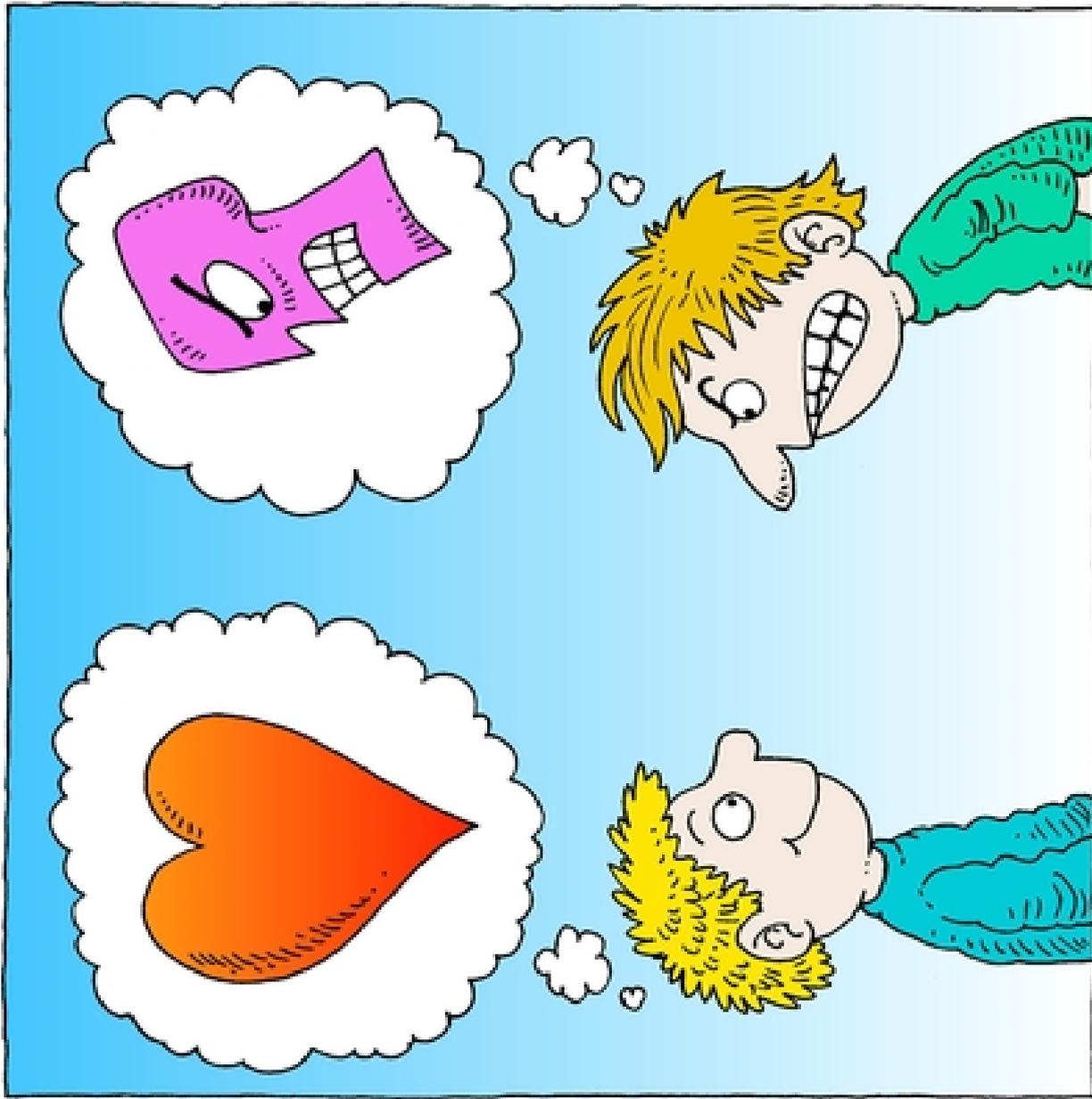




Growing In Love For All People



**HOW DO YOU  
MAKE PEACE WHEN  
SOMEONE IS MEAN  
TO YOU?**



**LOVE YOUR ENEMIES**