# Children’s liturgy: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

## Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green
Props: coloured pens and pencils

## Song suggestions

Be still for the presence of the Lord (720, Laudate)

## Welcome

Today we hear that Jesus visits Martha and Mary. Jesus wants us to make him our number one priority. Let’s find out how we can do this…

## Opening prayer

Patient God, give us ears to hear, time to be still, courage to stop what we are doing and a willingness to listen to your words. Amen.

## First reading: Genesis 18:1-10

## Psalm: Psalm 14:2-5 R v.1

## Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

## Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching. Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!

The Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her.”

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

## Gospel reflection

What do you remember from today’s reading?

Jesus is welcomed into the house of a woman called Martha. Martha has a sister called Mary who is pleased to see Jesus and immediately sits down to hear him speak. Martha is busy with tasks. Perhaps she is getting Jesus a drink, making him some food, making sure he has everything he needs.

Why is Martha cross with Mary and what does she say to Jesus?

Martha wants Mary to do some of these jobs too and she asks Jesus to tell Mary to help her. How does Jesus reply?

Jesus tells Martha that Mary is doing the right thing by taking time to sit and listen to him,

What do you think this story teaches us about listening to Jesus?

When should we be busy and when should we be quiet? Both are important in our lives, but we need to get the balance right.

*If you have time and a slightly older group of children, you could explore this in the mini-play included in the activity suggestions below. Or you can continue straight on with the reflection questions.*

Where do we find Jesus in our lives and how do we make time to listen to him?

Jesus is in everyone, even when we least expect him. Do you make time for other people when they want to talk to you? Do you make time to listen quietly in prayer? Or are you always busy, rushing from one activity to the next?

Spending time quietly can help us sort out our ideas and feelings, we can listen to God who helps us think things through and we can work out what God is asking us to do next. Quiet time can help us to recognise Jesus in other people and to see how we can help each other.

This week make some time for God. When you have made some time for God, then make some time for doing what God asks of us: treating all people with kindness, love and respect.

How will you make time to listen to God this week?

## Intercessions: *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

Let us listen to Jesus as we pray together:

We pray for the leaders in our schools and our communities: that they may make time for all people and listen to those around them. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit in their work and listen to the needs of all their people. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that together we may know when to be busy and when to be still, so that we may be ready to welcome Jesus into our hearts. Lord in your mercy…

In this Jubilee Year, we pray that we may be signs of hope in our world through all that we do and how we treat one another. Lord in your mercy…

## Closing prayer

Christ our Lord, open our ears to listen to your word in this quiet moment. [*Pause in silence for a few moments.]* May we turn to you with helping hands and hearts ready to love. Amen.

## Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw how they will make more time to listen to Jesus in the coming week.

Encourage the children to write a ‘to do list’ of all the things they usually do during a day or in a week. Get them to count how many tasks there are. Have they remembered to include prayer time or quiet time listening to Jesus? If not, encourage them to add this to their list and to really make time for it in the coming week. As they listen, what is God asking of them?

Remind the children to share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with the people at home. Encourage them to make time for Jesus in their lives in the coming week and to make time to help others in any way that they can.

Put on the following mini-play with the children:

**Jesus is coming to dinner
A mini-play which needs four people**

***The phone rings*Person 1:** [*answering the phone]* “Hello… who’s this? You’re kidding me! You’re Jesus? And you’d like to come to dinner? Wow! I really need to clean my house – it’s a mess! *[Hangs up phone and frantically starts cleaning.]*

***The doorbell rings*Person 2:** [*at the door]* “Can you please help me? My car’s just broken down…”

**Person 1:** “I’m sorry, Jesus is coming to dinner and I’m too busy to help you.” *[Quickly closes door. Continues cleaning, sighing and puffing with all the work.]*

***The doorbell rings*Person 3:** *[at the door]* “Hello, we’re collecting money to help people who are poor around the world, can you help us please?”

**Person 1:** “Really sorry, but Jesus is coming to dinner. Can’t you see that I’m busy?”
*[Sighs with exhaustion… Closes door and suddenly realises that they haven’t even started on making dinner]*

“What on earth am I going to give Jesus for dinner?” *[Really starts to panic and quickly starts to open cupboards and make dinner]*

***The doorbell rings***

**Person 4:** [at the door] “Hi, I live next door and I was wondering if I could have a chat about something please?”

**Person 1: “**Can you come back tomorrow? I’m busy today.”
[*Closes door. Shoves food into oven and lays table. Waits for Jesus to arrive…]*

***The phone rings*Person 1:** “Hello? Oh hello Jesus. Where are you? I’ve cooked and cleaned for hours and you haven’t shown up… What do you mean you came to me three times and I turned you away? Did I? When?”

\*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today’s English Version, Second Edition)

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