***LSW***

children

*his episcopal ordination, and they became bishops when …. all the way back to a bishop who became a bishop when an apostle laid his hands on him and the apostle was made a bishop by Jesus Christ himself.*

*Every Catholic bishop in the world can thus trace his lineage back to the Twelve Apostles. This is known as the Apostolic Succession. It is very important to Catholics as it means that every bishop today teaches the same teaching as the Apostles did and in a broken line as well.*

*That is why every Catholic diocese in the world maintains an archive in which each bishop in that line from the foundation of the diocese until today, is listed. We know, for instance, that the first bishop in Malaysia was appointed in 1558. We know his name, that he was Spanish and we know each one of bishop who followed. We know who laid hands on each one of them to transmit the faith and the lineage of each of them. This is our guarantee that our faith has been handed down from Jesus himself.*

*Explain also how each Catholic comes into communion with each other Catholic in the world.*

Year C

# Twelfth Sunday In Ordinary Time

**Theme**

The Pope and the Apostolic Succession

**Points to note**

There is a board inside the Westminster Catholic Cathedral in London, which lists down the names of all the Popes and next to them, the list of the leading bishops in England at that time. There are two ideas here that are important. Each bishop is consecrated a bishop by another bishop, who has been consecrated by another bishop, who has been consecrated by another bishop, and so on, until you reach a bishop, who has been consecrated by one of the Apostles. This is known as the Apostolic Succession, the principle that every Catholic bishop traces his lineage back to the Apostles and we have the list of bishops to prove it. Every diocese in the world keeps such a list of its own line of bishops. This list that traces back to the Apostles is our proof that what our bishops teach is the same as what the Apostles, and Jesus, taught.

The other is one of communion. Every Catholic owes allegiance to his or her local bishop. We are said to be in communion with our bishop. Each bishop is in turn in communion with the Pope. Therefore, each Catholic is communion with each other through his or her communion with the local bishop who is in communion with other bishops through his communion with the Pope.

In Year A, we discuss the structure of the Church while, in Year B, we explain how the Pope is elected and, in Year C, we discuss the Apostolic Succession. You can refer to the leaflet for year A for the structure of the Church.

The reading in Luke does not have the commissioning of Peter as the first Pope. You may need to berng this link into the discussion.

**Liturgy**

*Explain that the Apostles had earlier seen Jesus feeding the five thousand men with only five loaves and two fishes. What would they have felt if they have seen someone fed five thousand children in their school canteen with only five loaves and two fishes? That’s probably how the disciples felt.*

Acclamation before the Gospel

Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,

anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

The Lord be with you.

*All:*  And also with you.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke

*All:*  Glory to you O Lord

(Lk 9:18-24)

One day when Jesus was praying alone with his disciples, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” And they answered, “John the Baptist; some say Elijah; and others say one of the ancient prophets come back to life.” “But you” he said “Who do you say I am?” It was Peter who answered, “The Christ of God” he said. But he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone anything about this.

“The Son of Man” he said “is meant to suffer greatly, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be killed, and to be raised up on the third day.”

Then to all he said, “If anyone wants to be a my disciple, he must make sacrifices and endure hardship everyday and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, that man will save it.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Dialogue**

Who is the head of the Church? *Jesus. Explain that Jesus does not what to take care of the entire Church by himself and so he has a lot of people to help him. He has the Pope to help him. The Pope helps Jesus to take care of all Catholics throughout the world, all one billion of us. The Pope wears white and lives in Rome. He has a huge church called St Peter’s Basilica. This is because the first Pope was St Peter.*

*The Pope could not possibly take care* *of all Catholics, too. So he has over 5,000 bishops to help him. Most of these bishops take care of an area called a diocese. Some dioceses are larger than others and are called archdioceses. We are in the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur, which includes KL, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang and Terengganu. There are more than 60,000 Catholics in our archdiocese. The bishop who is appointed to help the Pope take care of all Catholics in our diocese is Archbishop Julian. Bishops wear purple. Archbishop Julian’s church is called St John’s Cathedral.*

*Archbishop Julian became an archbishop just over a year ago. His episcopal ordination was quite a grand affair with a number of other bishops being there, one of whom was a representative of the Pope and there were also bishops from other countries in attendance.*

*The point that he became a bishop was when he knelt down and three bishops laid their hands on him. Now, those bishops became bishops when three bishops laid their hands on him at*