

Outline of Liturgy of the Word with Children

The people gather –adults and children, and when the people have gathered an entrance song is sung ‘to foster the unity of those who have gathered’. (GIRM (NZ) 26)

Within the Assembly

- ❖ At a suitable moment following the Greeting, the presider invites the children to the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word with Children.
- ❖ The presider presents the children with a Children’s Lectionary (or a Children’s Bible) and a lit candle to recognise the presence of God in the Word.
- ❖ The children process to a specially prepared area for the Children’s Liturgy of the Word. (When they are in the same age group, the Altar Servers lead this procession and remain with the children until they all return together.)
- ❖ The adults gathered should join in an appropriate *sending song* or instrumental music may accompany the procession. (The procession should always occur with music and/or song, rather than silence).



Entering the Children’s Liturgical Space

- ❖ The Children’s Lectionary (Bible) and Candle are placed reverently.
- ❖ The group begins with a simplified opening prayer, echoing the Opening Prayer in the gathering of adults.



Listening to God's Word

- ❖ All the children and the adults accompanying them are invited by the leader to hear the Word of God.
- ❖ Before the Gospel other readings and the psalm of the day *may be* proclaimed/sung, but are *optional*.
- ❖ The Gospel is welcomed with an Acclamation.
- ❖ The Gospel is proclaimed.



Responding with the Children

- ❖ The leader invites the group to reflect on the meaning of the Gospel and (other readings) in our lives.
- ❖ A simple version of the Creed is prayed.
- ❖ Prayers are offered for people in need.
- ❖ Closing Prayer



Reconnecting with the Assembly

- ❖ *Children return to the assembly* as the Gifts are prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- ❖ The Children's Lectionary and Candle are received along with the children.
- ❖ On occasion it may be appropriate for the presider and the children to share, either through symbol or through a dialogue, the children's understanding of the Word they have heard.
- ❖ *The children return to parents/caregivers/whanau.*

