



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

4th Sunday of Advent - Year B

Violet

Annunciation

Romans 16:25-27, Psalm 47, Luke 1:26-38

Building a house for the Lord.

Let us make a house in our hearts for the Lord of our lives.

We could pray to Mary the Mother of God to help us make such a place in our hearts for her son.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, starting with the Gospel. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted.) Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you.

Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end.

Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not married!"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. Nothing is impossible to God!"

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said."

And the angel left her.

Brothers and sisters: Praise God! He can make you strong by means of my good news, which is the message about Jesus Christ. For ages and ages this message was kept secret, but now at last it has been told.

The eternal God commanded his prophets to write about the good news, so that all nations would obey and have faith. And now, because of Jesus Christ, we can praise the only wise God forever! Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 47

Response: **God is king of all the earth!**

All you nations, clap your hands and shout joyful praises to God.
The Lord Most High is fearsome, the ruler of all the earth.

God is ruler of all the earth! Praise God with songs.
God rules the nations from his sacred throne.

Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)
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Background to the Readings for Leaders

In the Gospel story Luke emphasises the coming of one belonging to the house of David.

Images from the Readings

- You are truly blessed
- Nothing is impossible to God
- I am the Lord's servant
- Family of King David

Reflection for Leaders

The Gospel speaks of an event that is very different from the ordinary and Mary's reaction to it. Joy is an emotion that is not commonly expressed these days. Mary's commitment is something else that is not now common. Her acceptance of the will of God for her provides an example of obedience that has inspired the lives of thousands of people down through the years. She is the perfect model of the perfect Christian. Accepting her call in life as God's will for her, accepting with joy, having faith and hope in the favourable outcome of this divine intervention in her life, without understanding or questioning. We are told she pondered these things in her heart. Well might we draw an example for our own behaviour from that of the mother of Jesus. How often we question and worry away at something we are told to do, how often we argue against some decision that we dislike or that inconveniences us, unwilling just to accept and live with it. Mary's example is to do the opposite. Accept and try to live with what life gives us.

The first reading and the Gospel can be contrasted. God's will and inscrutability are everywhere evident. King David wishes to build a concrete building to house the sacred meeting place of the Jews and their God, where the sacred scrolls are to be kept. But the Lord tells him not to worry about it, that he the Lord will provide a house for him in the form of a dynasty. In the Gospel God is shown constructing the last rooms of the promised dynasty through the person of Mary. In her will grow the crowning point and the cornerstone for the new covenant.

Discuss with the children ways in which we can say yes in our own lives. Situations where they are asked to do something for someone else is one simple and common occasion when practising saying yes is possible. To say yes shows faith and confidence in the person we are saying yes to.

Reflecting on the Readings with the children

Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline. With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

With the 5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'.

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:

Violet cloth, Lectionary, a candle and an Advent Wreath with three purple candles and one pink candle.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

At a suitable moment after the Opening Rites, but before the First Reading is proclaimed, the children are presented with the Children's Lectionary and a candle and sent, with their ministers, to the place where they will celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word, with words of dismissal such as the following:

INVITATION – Pōwhiri I invite the children to join in the procession for their celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

To the Minister of the Word: Receive this Book of Readings and proclaim God's Word faithfully to the children entrusted to your care.

Receive this candle as the light of Christ who is present in his Word.

PROCESSION WITH THE BOOK OF READINGS – Te Kapa o te Pukapuka Tapu

WELCOME – Ko te whakatau

Leader: O God, come into our hearts this Christmas so that we will be the place where you live forever and ever. Amen.

R Amen.

First Reading: Romans 16:25-27

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki
Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalm 47 **Response:**

God is king of all the earth!

(or another suitable response known by the children)

Advent: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Make a straight path for the Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the hope for the world.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke
Children: **Glory to you, O Lord / Korōria ki ā koe, e te Ariki**

At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord
Children: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ / Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti.**

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH THE CHILDREN – Whai Whakaaro

8-12 year olds: Suggested Beginning: A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. Then begin a general discussion, building on these responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

- Ask the children to tell you what they know about angels. No one really knows, but often they are depicted as beautiful winged creatures dressed in white and with a halo on their heads. When angels appear they are usually seen as messengers of God.
- In the Old Testament, God sent an angel to stop Abraham from sacrificing his son Isaac to prove his love for God. In the New Testament, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to marry Mary, and many angels appeared to some shepherds on a hillside to tell them about the new-born saviour. Later an angel appeared in a dream to warn Joseph to take his family to Egypt to escape from King Herod.
- How do you think Mary, felt when the angel appeared to her? At first she was frightened and confused by the angel, but he was able to reassure her and calm her fears. What message did the angel have for Mary? That she would become the mother of God and that her cousin Elizabeth was already expecting a baby.
- How did Mary react to Gabriel's message? She listened carefully to his words and agreed to do God's will. At the moment she agreed to become the mother of God, she also became the mother of us all.

5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Today all the candles on the Advent wreath are lit.



Sing the first verse of 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' (AOV1: 174; GA 285)

O Come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.



PROFESSION OF FAITH – Panui o te Whakapono

We believe in God the Father,
who made the whole world.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
who was born in Bethlehem
and lived among us,
who died on the cross for us,
and rose from the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who brings life and love to us all.
We believe that the Church is one family,
and that one day
we will share everlasting life
with God in heaven.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – Te Īnoinga o te Hunga Whakapono

(Here are some suggested intercessions; you are encouraged to compose your own according to the age and experience of the children)

- Leader:** With happy hearts let us call upon our loving God for our needs:
- For the Church, model of truth and justice. Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
 - That people everywhere will have a growing respect for all of creation.
Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
 - For peace in our country between people of different cultures and beliefs.
Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will be welcoming to new people in our lives. Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: O God you heal the broken hearted, pour your healing grace on us and on those for whom we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

The children rejoin the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.

4th Sunday of Advent, Year B

Liquid Picture

Luke 1:26-38

Annunciation to Mary

Note to leaders: The following **liquid picture** is appropriate to use with children of any age but especially suitable for **younger children**.

How to do liquid pictures:

Liquid Pictures is a form of drama which allows a story to be presented in a flowing or liquid manner. The process follows this pattern:

- Divide the story or Scriptural passage into five or six main statements.
- Accompany each statement with a simple action that can be held in a freeze frame position.
- Choose one child to say each statement and do a simple action. These children form a straight line facing the audience.
- A leader introduces the story.
- The first child steps forward, repeats the statement two or three times (once is not enough for children to remember!) then freezes.
- The second child steps forward, repeats the statement and freezes.
- The process continues until the last child finishes.
- The leader concludes with a simple statement.

Leader: God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for Mary . . .

Mary, God is with you.

What's going on?

Mary, fear not.

You will have a son and call him Jesus.

How can this happen?

God's Spirit will come to you.

All will be well.

Leader: Mary said, 'I am God's servant! Let it happen as you have said.'

From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.