



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Jesus teaches the people'

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 95 Mark 1:21-28

When Jesus cured the man with the evil spirit he was showing us that God does not want us to live in fear or be afraid.

By listening carefully to God's word and trying to live more like Jesus did, God can work very powerfully in our lives so we can help others who are troubled or frightened.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went to the town of Capernaum. Then on the next Sabbath he went into the Jewish meeting place and started teaching. Everyone was amazed at his teaching. He taught with authority, and not like the teachers of the Law of Moses.

Suddenly a man with an evil spirit in him entered the meeting place and yelled, "Jesus of Nazareth, what do you want with us? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are! You are God's Holy One."

Jesus told the evil spirit, "Be quiet and come out of that man!" The spirit shook him. Then it gave a loud shout and left.

Everyone was completely surprised and kept saying to each other, "What is this? It must be some kind of powerful teaching! Even the evil spirits obey him." News about Jesus quickly spread all over that part of Galilee.

The Lord said to Moses: I will choose one of their own people to be a prophet like you. I will give my message to that prophet, who will tell the people exactly what I have said. That prophet will speak in my name, and anyone who doesn't obey the message will answer to me.

Response: **If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.**
 or Alleluia!

Sing joyful songs to the Lord! Praise the mighty rock where we are safe.
 Come to worship him with thankful hearts and songs of praise. **R.**

Bow down and worship the Lord our Creator! The Lord is our God
 and we are his people, the sheep he takes care of in his own pasture. **R.**

SECOND READING *(not included this week)*

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

The Book of Deuteronomy has the rules and regulations about every aspect of Jewish life including the role and purpose of priests and prophets. God promised that he would not desert his people - that there would always be a prophet to stand between them and God. Moses was the model for the prophets. — Jesus would be a fulfilment of the law and the prophets. In the ancient Jewish tradition, the prophet, the authoritative interpreter of God's word, was a key ministry.

In today's readings there is a strong link between the description of a true prophet as the mouthpiece of God and a scene where Jesus is described as one who teaches the people "with authority". — God is the source of this authority.

Images from the Readings

- With authority
- Powerful teaching
- We are safe
- Speak in my name

Reflection for Leaders

In an age where self-fulfilment, self-motivation, self-assertiveness, self-development are all catch-cries, as Christians, we are called upon to base our lives on a far greater authority than simply our own self-made wisdom and leadership. It is from God and God alone that our lives take their direction. Today's first reading describes this authority as the word and laws of God passed down through the prophets. In the Gospel it is seen as the authority given Jesus over sin and evil. The Gospel is really an extraordinary story and I'm sure the children can be helped to realise this. As an illustration of the authority and power of Jesus this simple scene is very effective. By relating the extraordinary right alongside the ordinary Mark reveals to us the enormous impression that Jesus made on the everyday lives of the people. We have Jesus teaching in the temple, not extraordinary, there were often teachers speaking in the temple on the Sabbath, there would have been lots of people around listening and fulfilling their Sabbath duties according to the law. Jesus though taught with astonishing conviction catching every one's attention, but that wasn't too extraordinary, then against this background of the ordinary routine Sabbath day temple activities someone possessed by "an evil spirit" began shouting at Jesus accusing him and calling him "God's Holy One" and we know the rest of the story and how Jesus' fame began to spread around the surrounding countryside. What a shock to the lives of the complacent, the ordinary: here was someone said to be from God who spoke with amazing authority and had power over evil spirits, - this news travelled like wild fire throughout the countryside. Isn't it the same news that we have, through our baptism, been commissioned to spread? How are we going about it? Is the news not still as vital and life changing now as it was then? Has it become stale and worn out? Doesn't it still rate as news-worthy in our world of mega happenings, multiple killings, millions of dollars lost to fire, robbery, flood, fraud, foolhardiness. Doesn't it add up to news these days when the agencies that process what news we hear compete with each other for the most gruesome killing, the most depraved act of bestiality, news of the worst possible scenario? Maybe we need to rethink our Good News and realize how relevant it in fact is for a world in which individuals grasp at any shred of hope and are in search for some conviction to base their lives upon.

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:

Green cloth (ordinary time), Lectionary, candle,



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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: Faithful God, You have blessed us with the gift of faith in you and your works. Help us to act bravely with faith in our lives, to live lives that show we have faith in your love.

R Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

(if used)

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

Psalms 95

Response: If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.
or **Alleluia!**

D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ A

General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word._____

Bm G D A G A D D

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark
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.*

- Jesus was recognised by his actions, we too have a mission to be recognised as his followers by our actions. When we act out of faith in God wonderful things happen. Until we begin to live and act with faith we are one among the many of those who have been called and chosen but who have not yet begun to realise fully what it means to be followers of Christ.
- Why do you think the people were amazed and astonished at the way Jesus taught? What did the man with an unclean spirit call Jesus?
- What did the people in the temple say about Jesus?
- Which words or phrases from the Gospel stick in your mind? (Read the Gospel through again slowly to help the children remember it.)

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

The children could mime out or make a short play of the Gospel scene, with the character of Jesus and the crowd in the temple who begin to listen and slowly crowd around to hear the powerful message.

Focus the children on the play by asking questions beforehand.

How would the people have felt hearing Jesus, a stranger, speaking in the temple with power and authority that they had never heard before?

When he cast out the evil spirit from the man how would they have felt?

You might discuss actions of faith with the children. Ask them to give you some occasions from their own lives when they or someone they know of has acted out of faith. These could be listed on a chart prepared beforehand headed "Acts of Faith". To hang such a poster in the church for everyone to read might be an inspiration to some people.

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)

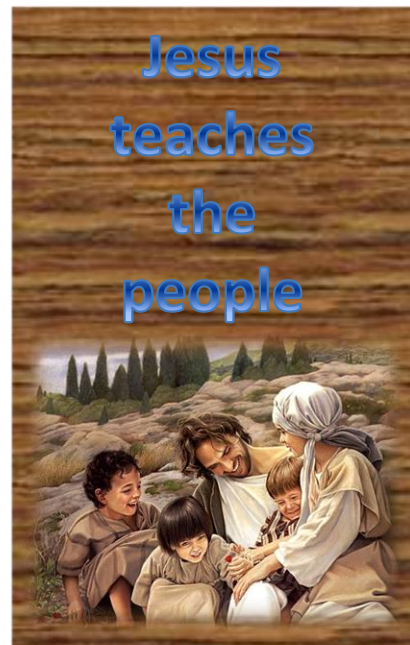
Leader: Having listened to the Word of God, let us call on God with happy hearts for our needs.

- For the Church our mother, that the sick and dying will receive her peace.
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a stop to the suffering of oppressed people everywhere.
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all children, that they may have good people to care for them throughout their lives.
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will always be gentle with others.
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God our creator and our hope, Lord of the universe, look with kindness upon those for whom we pray and grant our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

The children re-join the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Liquid Pictures

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus teaches the people

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: Jesus started teaching the people ...

Wow! Listen to him!

Isn't he great!

He's cool!

He sure knows what he is talking about!

He's healed that man! Wow!

Isn't Jesus great!

Leader: News spread quickly that Jesus was cool!
(Or 'News spread quickly that Jesus was a man of authority.')

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.