



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year B

Violet

'The temple'

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 John 2:13-22



Have you ever felt very angry because you knew something was wrong? Today we read about Jesus being angry at people who were treating others unfairly and doing so in God's house.

This is one of the very rare times in Jesus' life that we see him angry.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Third Sunday of Lent, 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

John 2:13-22

Not long before the Jewish festival of Passover, Jesus went to Jerusalem. There he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves in the temple. He also saw moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he took some rope and made a whip. Then he chased everyone out of the temple, together with their sheep and cattle. He turned over the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins.

Jesus said to the people who had been selling doves, "Get those doves out of here! Don't make my Father's house a marketplace."

The disciples then remembered that the Scriptures say, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire."

The Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "What miracle will you work to show us why you have done this?"

“Destroy this temple,” Jesus answered, “and in three days I will build it again!”

The Leaders replied, “It took forty-six years to build this temple. What makes you think you can rebuild it in three days?”

But Jesus was talking about his body as a temple. And when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered what he had told them. Then they believed the Scriptures and the words of Jesus.

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

The Lord gave Moses these commandments:

I am the Lord your God.

I brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves. Do not worship any god except me.

Do not misuse my name. I am the Lord your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.

Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me.

Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land that I am giving you.

Do not murder.

Be faithful in marriage. Do not steal.

Do not tell lies about others.

Do not want what belongs to someone else.

Do not want anyone’s house or wife or slaves or cattle or donkeys or anything else.

PSALM

Psalm 19

Response: **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The law of the Lord is perfect; it gives us new life.

His teachings last forever, and they give wisdom to ordinary people. **R.**

The Lord’s instruction is right; it makes our hearts glad.

His commands shine brightly, and they give us light. **R.**

All of his decisions are correct and fair.

They are worth more than the finest gold. **R.**

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

In the readings today we have the law being given to Moses, the temple cleared of traders by Jesus and Jesus saying that he knows what is in the hearts of people without being told.

Rules and regulations are a part of our life almost from the moment we can first comprehend. Usually they are focused on our own safety and our parents are the law givers. Later they become more focused on the rights of others and on how we are to behave towards them. Later still the civil laws of our country impinge on our lives and liberty and for some international laws also become relevant. So for the children it is easy to put today's first reading into the broader context of the rules and regulations that govern all the dealings and relationships we have with another person. You might discuss these with them and the fact that the laws handed down from Moses, while being laws that governed Israel's relationship with God, were soon broadened to cover all aspects of living, the civil laws and God's laws combined.

In today's Gospel Jesus becomes angry when he sees the temple, the house of God, used for activities that do not properly belong there. In cases like this we might use a blessing ceremony to re-dedicate a holy place that has been desecrated – explain this to the children. These rites of restoration and blessing can be quite simple like making friends after a quarrel, the act of shaking hands or embracing.

Images from the Readings

- A market
- Love for the house of God
- Law
- Commandment

Reflection for Leaders

"I am the Lord your God....you shall have no gods except me;" are perhaps the most important words of today's first reading. Our God has a passionate love for us, but our fickle human hearts are often so easily distracted and carried away by the ways of the world and the present. Thus we are once again reminded of the cry of Lent "Turn away from sin, turn back to God." - Stay faithful, be faithful, return to the Word of God for your sustenance and ignore the call of the world. The happenings in the Temple turned into marketplace show us what the results are of a love of God that has lost sight of the neighbour. The Ten Commandments recognise our dependence on God and the rights of our neighbour. By keeping them we can in a positive way show our love for God and our neighbour.

Reflecting on the Readings with the children

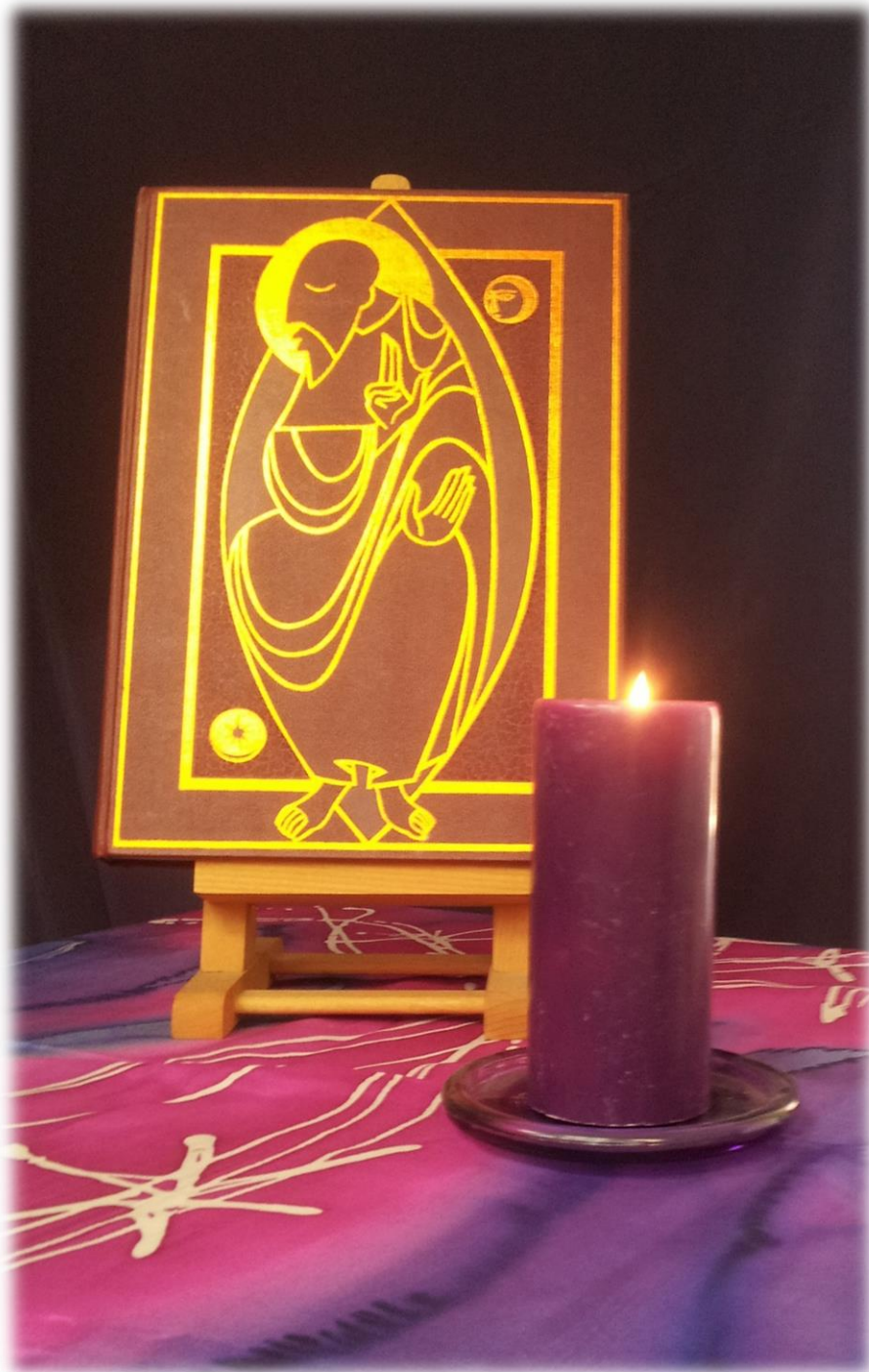
Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline. With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

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...



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

3rd Sunday of Lent - 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, you have shown us how you want us to live our lives. You have given us your love and your law. Help us to remember that when we obey the rules handed on to us by our parents we are obeying you.

R Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17


(if used)

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

Psalm 19


Response: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.
(or another suitable response known by the children)

D G A D Bm A D A



Praise the God of all com- pas- sion, Lord of hea - ven, Lord of earth.

D G A/C# D G A A7 D



He is king of all cre - a- tion, he is mer - cy, he is love.

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
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:

This is a difficult text for the children to work with so staying at the literal level might be necessary, depending on the age of the children. After you've read today's Gospel to the children questions might be along these lines –

- Why do you think Jesus was upset by what the people were doing in the temple? How did he show he was angry? What did he say?
- Why do you think we have the Ten Commandments? (Try to keep positive about the Ten Commandments - by keeping them we show our love of God and our neighbour - and bring the commandments themselves down to the level of the children e.g.. Thou shalt not kill. - You can kill another person by starving them of attention, by ignoring them.)



Explain to the children that, in the time of Jesus, people saw sacrifice as a gift of something to God and usually this was a bird or a small animal that they bought at the Temple. The people selling the birds and animals were being dishonest and taking more money than they should have and this cheating and greediness upset Jesus and caused his anger. It may be a good opportunity

to explore the emotion of anger and explain how at times our anger can be helpful if it leads us to speak out against injustice.

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

Pray together:

Jesus, my life is filled with lots of thoughts,
lots of words and lots of activities.
Please show me which of them are good and which are not,
so I can be like God's Temple,
empty of anything wrong and filled with your love.



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: In trust let us ask God for our needs and the needs of the world

- For the Church, that everywhere the lost and the outcasts will make it their home.

Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For an end to starvation and suffering for lack of food.

Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That parents everywhere will lead their children gently and with care.

Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That all children may be blessed with a love for each other.

Let us pray to the Lord R̄ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Lord of love and justice, hear with compassion our prayers, which we make through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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