



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Jesus heals many people'

Job 7:1-4, 6-7 Psalm 146 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39



Mark reveals for us a Christ who prays and is close to God, a compassionate Christ who works day and night at the work that has been assigned him. We contrast Jesus' attitude to that of Job who speaks of his days in complaining tones as being "swifter than a weaver's shuttle", Jesus personifies the busyness that Job speaks of. We might ask if our lives are founded on prayer and as full of the Lord's work as those of whom we would follow.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Fifth 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 1:29-39

As soon as Jesus left the meeting place with James and John, they went home with Andrew and Simon. When they got there, Jesus was told that Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her. He took hold of her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she served them a meal. That evening, after sunset, all who were sick or had demons in them were brought to Jesus. In fact, the whole town gathered around the door of the house.

Jesus healed all kinds of terrible diseases and forced out a lot of demons. But the demons knew who he was, and he did not let them speak. Very early the next morning Jesus got up and went to a place where he could be alone and pray. Simon and the others started looking for him.

And when they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you!"

Jesus replied, “We must go to the nearby towns, so that I can tell the good news to those people. This is why I have come.” Then Jesus went to the Jewish meeting places everywhere in Galilee, where he preached and forced out demons.

FIRST READING

Job 7:1-4 6-7

Job responded to his friend and said: “Life on earth is slavery! We spend our days like labourers. I am only a slave in search of shade, a labourer waiting for his wages. Each month of my life is meaningless, and all of my nights are miserable. While lying in my bed I ask, “How long before time to get up?” The night drags slowly on, as I toss and turn until the sun rises. “My days fly by more swiftly than the needle of a weaver, and they end without hope. Remember that my life is merely a breath, and I will never be happy again.”

PSALM

Psalm 146

Response: **Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**
 or Alleluia!

Shout praises to the Lord! Our God is kind,
And it is right and good to sing praises to him. **R.**

He decided how many stars there would be in the sky
And gave each one a name. **R.**

Our Lord is great and powerful. He understands everything.
Celebrate and sing! Play your harps for the Lord our God. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Brothers and sisters: I don't have any reason to brag about preaching the good news. Preaching is something that God told me to do, and if I don't do it, I am doomed. If I preach because I want to, I will be paid. But even if I don't want to, it is still something that God has sent me to do. What pay am I given? It is the chance to preach the good news free of charge and not to use the privileges that are mine because I am a preacher.

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

The story of Job is interesting and well worth reading as background to today's readings. Job was successful, well off with a nice home and family, and religious. God is proud of him but Satan says he might not be so religious if he was less fortunate. So God lets Satan test Job and find out. Poor Job loses everything including his health. His friends are not much help to him, they suggest he must have done something wrong to deserve such bad luck. When finally Job turns to God for answers he begins to understand that he cannot expect to fathom the ways of God and eventually his former lifestyle is restored. In today's reading we have a picture of a good man suffering undeservedly. Life is without joy and hope because Job is full of self-pity.

The Gospel of last week and today could be called, "A Day in the Life of Jesus". They follow on from each other in the Gospel of Mark. The day begins for Jesus with teaching and confronting evil at the synagogue. Then going to Simon and Andrew's house and finding Simon's mother-in-law lying sick with fever, he heals her, not only to cure her fever but so that she might serve them. — Mark thus emphasises that Jesus heals in order that we might be better able to do his work. When the Sabbath is officially over at sundown the townspeople bring the sick and possessed for Jesus to heal, others come too, to witness the miracles. In the early hours of the next morning, some hours before daybreak, Jesus rises and goes to a lonely place to pray.

Images from the Readings

- Helped her up
- Alone to pray
- God has sent me
- Heals the broken hearted

Reflection for Leaders

Mark seems to be emphasising the purpose of Jesus' mission — to teach and to heal so that we might be free to serve God. We too need to look to healing people both by our physical support and by helping free their spirits from any material and psychological bondage. Jesus seems to shy away from the direction his mission is beginning to take, or the consequences of his mission, — the crowds wanting miracles and coming to witness miracles, almost as if he is unprepared for this sensationalism and emotion, being prepared for teaching and fulfilling the Word and perhaps knowing that all the clamour attached to his healing miracles was not where he wanted the focus to be. This becomes even clearer in next week's reading from Mark where after curing a man with leprosy Jesus tells him to tell nobody of his cure. Or perhaps this is because he doesn't want his disciples to recognise him as the Messiah who is to die and rise again, just yet.



We are reminded that the cure of a person, the setting free from sicknesses of the body and mind, is a freeing to serve others and God in a more complete way.

We are reminded in the Book of Job that God's ways are not our ways. Though the hardship that afflicted Job might be seen by us to be unjust, the actions of God cannot be viewed with the same human outlook. We can emphasise with the children today the value of daily prayer in our lives. That our lives need to be connected each day to God's love and being connected can then do the work of following in the footsteps of our Saviour.

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

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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: God our Creator, You show us how to live. Help us to follow the life and teachings of Jesus, your Son, so that our lives will be pleasing to you and helpful to others.

R Amen.

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

(if used)

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

Psalm 146

Response:

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

or Alleluia!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

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

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

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

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

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 Whakāaro

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.*

- What part do you remember most from the readings?
- What actions did Jesus perform in the Gospel?
- and when he left the village where he had been, where did he go?
and what did he do?

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

Create a special place to pray the Lord's Prayer today, somewhere quiet and separate from the area used for the liturgy — maybe outside. When we pray the Lord's Prayer have the children stand and raise their hands in supplication to God, try to give the prayer special meaning.

Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen



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 Inoinga 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 strong faith and hope let us pray to God for our needs.

- For the Church, the community of believers.
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For an end to violence in the world.
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That all the different people of our land will be blessed with love for each other.
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will always respect others and the world we live in.
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of light and peace, give your abundant blessings to us and to those for whom we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

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

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Liquid Pictures

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus heals many 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 helped many people and cured them of their sickness ...

Me! I'm cured!

So am I!

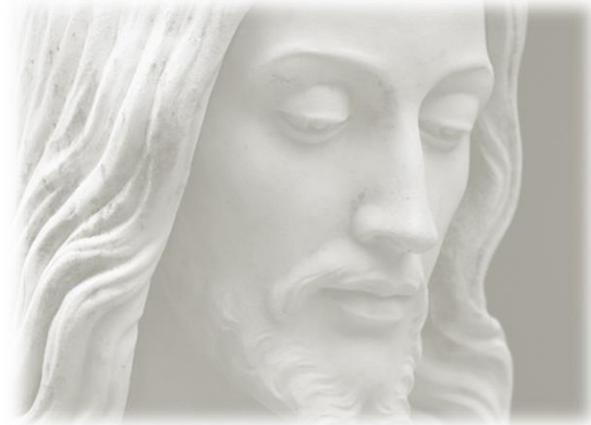
Hey, I'm better!

Look, my sickness is gone!

He healed me also!

Thank you Jesus!

Leader: Then he went away to a quiet place to pray.



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.