



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Jesus is life'

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2: 23-24a Psalm 30 2 Corinthians 8: 7,9, 13-14 Mark 5:21-24, 35-43



*In today's Gospel,
Jesus brings a young girl back to life again.
She hears his call to her, "Talitha, koum" and
follows it through a journey we can only
imagine, emerging to return to the world she
had left, in full health and very hungry.
He could do that because Jesus is life.*

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Thirteenth 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 5:21-24, 35-43

Jesus got into the boat and crossed Lake Galilee. Then, as he stood on the shore, a large crowd gathered around him. The person in charge of the Jewish meeting place was also there. His name was Jairus, and when he saw Jesus, he went over to him. He kneeled at Jesus feet and started begging for help. He said, "My daughter is about to die! Please come and touch her, so she will get well and live!" Jesus went with Jairus. Many people followed and kept crowding around.

A little while later, some men came from Jairus' home and said, "Your daughter has died! Why bother the teacher anymore?" Jesus heard what they said, and he said to Jairus, "Don't worry.

Just have faith!" Jesus did not let anyone go with him except Peter and the two brothers, James and John. They went with Jairus and saw the people crying and making a lot of noise. The Jesus went inside and said to them, "Why are you crying and carrying on like this? The child is not dead. She is just asleep." But the people laughed at him. After Jesus had sent them all out of the house, he took the girl's mother and father and his three disciples and went to where she was. He took the twelve year-old girl by the hand and said, "Talitha, koum!" which means, "Little girl, get up!" The girl got up and started walking around. Everyone was greatly surprised. But Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened. Then he said, "Give her something to eat."

FIRST READING

Wisdom 1;13-15, 2: 23-24a

God did not create death, but he is sad whenever a living creature dies. God made everything, and there is a reason for every living creature. No deadly poison is in them, and the kingdom of death doesn't rule the earth. Goodness will never die. God created us to live for ever, just as he does. But the Devil was jealous and brought death into the world.

PSALM

Psalm 30

Response: I will praise you Lord, for you have rescued me.
or Alleluia!

Your faithful people, Lord, will praise you with songs and honour your holy name. At night we may cry, but when morning comes we will celebrate. **R**

Have pity, Lord! Help! You have turned my sorrow to dancing. I will never stop singing your praises, my Lord and my God. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 8: 7-9, 13-14

Brothers and sister: You do everything better than anyone else. You have stronger faith. You speak and know more. You are eager to give, and you love us better. Now you must give more generously than anyone else. You know that our Lord Jesus Christ was kind enough to give up all his riches and become poor, so that you could become rich. I am not trying to make life easier for others by making life harder for you. But it is only fair for you to share with them when you have so much, and they have so little. Later, when they have more than enough, and you are in need, they can share with you. Then everyone will have a fair share.

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

The Book of Wisdom, written only a generation before the birth of Christ was the last of the Hebrew Scriptures to be written before his birth. It accepts an idea that came late to Hebrew thought, the idea of immortality, of life after death.

In the First Reading, death means not physical death but the death of the spirit. We all must die physically, but for God's faithful death changes life, doesn't end it. Death gives way to the bright promise of immortality.

In the Gospel, the story of the woman suffering from a haemorrhage has been sandwiched into the story of Jairus' daughter, just at the point between Jairus' plea for help and them receiving the news of the death of his daughter. There are some similarities in the two stories, the number of years for instance - the woman had been suffering for twelve years and the girl was twelve years old, more important though is the emphasis on faith in the two stories. Jairus asks Jesus to lay his hands on his daughter to make her better and save her life, and when news of her death comes Jesus tells him, "Don't worry, just have faith." The woman expects to be healed by touching Jesus but he points out that it is her faith that has healed her. We almost feel that she has healed herself, through her belief, that it is her miracle, not Jesus'.

(Although today's Gospel reading in the Lectionary for Masses with Children has left out the story of the woman with the haemorrhage, as leaders it is helpful to reflect on the two stories together as they were written by the Gospel writer.)

The word used for "get well" also means "save" The physical healing is only a sign of a deeper healing - salvation. Mark depicts Jesus as one with unprecedented power and authority. On this occasion power over that final, fearful human misery - death. Death, as Mark's Gospel will eventually reveal, has no finality in the presence of Jesus. He has the victory.

"For me you have changed my mourning into dancing,

O Lord my God, I will thank you forever." Ps 29:13

Images from the Readings

- Don't worry.
- Have faith
- Get up
- Give her something to eat
- Everyone will have a fair share

Reflection for Leaders

To Jesus all our dead, children and loved ones, are but asleep in death. As the risen Lord he will come to awaken them. That is our faith. That is why the words addressed to Jairus are addressed to us all "Don't worry (or be afraid), just have faith." This Gospel story is given to us as Good News to nourish our faith in Jesus, to relight our hope in his power over death itself. It is a strong message to those who see death as the end, as the last word in every human story. Our faith tells us differently.

Those who choose to live and act in faith have life. Mark is telling us to take Jairus as an example. His daughter lived because Jairus believed in Jesus. Mark is revealing to us too, Jesus' power over death.

What Jesus did here for Jairus' daughter he will do for us all, at the end of time, we will be raised up to live with him forever.

Have you ever been unable to help yourself; totally dependent on another person for your needs?

Do you feel any special bond with any of the characters in this Gospel? In what ways do you associate with them?

In what ways does your community recognise and give honour to the role women play in the life of the Parish?

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

Green cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a poster with the words *Talitha, koum* and *Maranatha* printed on them (see page 9).



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Thirteenth 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: O God, as we gather to hear your Word today grant that our faith may be strong and a love for you be in our hearts.

R Amen.

First Reading: Wisdom 1:13-15, 2: 23-24a

(if used)

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

Psalms 30

Response:

**I will praise you Lord, for you have rescued me.
or Alleluia!**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8: 7-9, 13-14

(if used)

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 5:21-24, 35-43

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 children the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. When each has had an opportunity to speak you might begin general discussion by building on to their responses. Help the children to focus on the “feelings” in this particular Gospel reading by using some prepared questions like the following:

- How would Jairus have felt when he learned his daughter was dying? How do you think Jesus might feel when Jairus called on him for help? How did the people at Jairus’ home feel? What were they doing?
- How might the little girl feel when she was healed by Jesus? How might Jesus have felt when people laughed at them? What words could describe how the family felt when their little girl got up out of bed, healed.

At the appropriate time in the conversation you might go over the Aramaic words, *Talitha, kum* which Jesus used. They are translated for us as “little girl, get up”

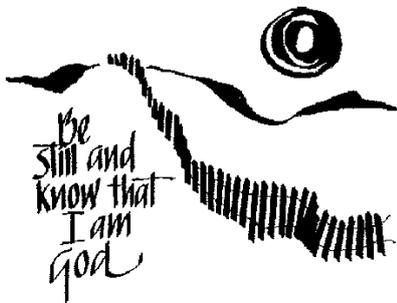
When the children have had time to think through these questions and talk them over ask them when they have called on Jesus for help.

- How were they feeling at the time? What difference did Jesus make for them?
- Does this story change the way we might treat other people? Why?

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*

Invite the children to choose one of the Aramaic phrases, *talitha koum* – ("Little girl, get up")
OR *Maranatha* – ("Come Lord Jesus, come") as a prayer mantra for a time of meditation.



Once each child has chosen their word, invite them to sit very still and straight. Close their eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently, inside their minds, begin to say their chosen word. Tell them to listen to this special word as they say it gently but continuously inside their mind, letting their thoughts and images pass gently by. Invite them to just keep turning their attention back to saying their special prayer word from the beginning to the end of their time of meditation.

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: Inspired by today's readings let us call upon our loving God for our needs:

- For the church, home of the poor, that it will lead with strong faith that shines out for all to see.

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

- For the people of Aotearoa New Zealand, that we will take care of our poor.

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

- For ourselves, that we will show our belief in Jesus by the way we live.

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

- For those who are sick

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

Leader: Loving and generous God you see our need always, gather us and those for whom we pray to yourself, hear our prayer, through Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen

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

talitha koum

(“little girl, get up”)

Maranatha

(“Come Lord Jesus, come”)