



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

'Jesus the prophet'

Green

Ezekiel 2:2-5 Psalm 86 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Mark 6:1-6



In the time of Jesus, Nazareth was a little town in the hill country of Galilee. Jesus spent his childhood there living with his parents Mary and Joseph. During a return visit to Nazareth he found that he was not welcome anymore.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Fourteenth 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 6:1-6

Jesus left and returned to his hometown with his disciples. The next Sabbath he taught in the Jewish meeting place.

Many of the people who heard him were amazed and asked, "How can he do all this? Where did he get such wisdom and the power to work these miracles? Isn't he the carpenter, the son of Mary? Aren't James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon his brothers? Don't his sisters still live here in our town?"

The people were very unhappy because of what he was doing. But Jesus said, "Prophets are honoured by everyone, except the people of their hometown and their relatives and their own family."

Jesus could not work any miracles there, except to heal a few sick people by placing his hands on them. He was surprised that the people did not have any faith.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 2:2-5

As the Lord spoke, his Spirit gave me the power to stand, and I heard him say:

“You are a mere human, but I am sending you to the people of Israel. All of them have rebelled against me, and they are still rebelling, just as their ancestors did. They are stubborn and hard-headed.

“But I am the Lord God, and I am sending you to speak to them in my name. They are stubborn. So maybe they will listen and maybe they won’t. But at least they will know that a prophet has come to them.”

PSALM

Psalm 86

Response: **Lord, you are good and forgiving**
 or Alleluia!

You willingly forgive, and your love is always there for those who pray to you.

Please listen, Lord!

Answer my prayer for help. **R**

You, the Lord God, are kind and merciful.

You don’t easily get angry, and your love can always be trusted.

Look on me with kindness.

Make me strong and save me. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Brothers and sisters:

I am now referring to the wonderful things I saw.

One of Satan’s angels was sent to make me suffer terribly, so that I would not feel too proud.

Three times I begged the Lord to make this suffering go away. But he replied, “My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.”

So if Christ keeps giving me his power, I will gladly brag about how weak I am. Yes, I am glad to be weak or insulted or mistreated or to have troubles and sufferings, if it is for Christ.

Because when I am weak, I am strong.

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

The First Reading: Ezekiel's call came at a hard time, Jerusalem had been destroyed and he was among the people who were expelled to Babylon. Ezekiel was being sent to a defiant and obstinate people and like Jeremiah he was warned from the start that he must be prepared to meet misunderstanding and rejection. Despite the harsh tone the message expresses God's fidelity.

Mark's Gospel portrays Jesus as suffering a similar fate to that of Ezekiel and the other Jewish prophets of old —rejection of him and his message. There is a deliberate slur on his name too as the people of his home town wonder about him aloud "the son of Mary" —in the world of ancient Israel peoples last names were formed from their father's last name, unless they were illegitimate, no one was ever referred to as the son of their mother. Jesus is profoundly affected by the way people react to him, mistrust here somehow disables him. His ministry amongst his own people is limited by their lack of trust and so he moves on and never returns to Nazareth again.

Images from the Readings

- Hometown
- Very unhappy
- Did not have any faith
- Placing his hands on them
- A prophet has come to them

Reflection for Leaders

Why do prophets make us feel so uncomfortable? Why do they bring out the violence in people?

We can domesticate Jesus, remake him in our own image through long interpretations of his story and be so familiar with his words that they lose their cutting edge. He demands greater than that though, he came to shake up our cosy world.

Seeing Jesus as he is, the only possible responses are rejection or faith.

Paul talks about rejection and of his own weaknesses. He reflects that his weaknesses are not a problem for God as they are for himself and this revelation forces him to change his image of God. He learned that God's grace works through human frailty and so he says "For it is when I am weak, that I am strong." For many of us this appears to be a contradiction. Educated to win and to accept nothing less than perfection. Being content with our weaknesses does not come easy for us. When we are beaten down by our own failures, limitations and weaknesses it is easy to think we are worthless to ourselves and to God. Paul tells us that's not how it is at all. He says

that God waits on our weaknesses to bloom so that through them God's purpose may be wrought.

We must believe in the person of Jesus. We must be prepared for the ultimate faith question, "Who do you say that I am?"

"Weakness and suffering enable the Christian to clear a space within herself (himself) where the power of Christ can dwell." - Adrian Nocent OSB.

You might discuss with the children the qualities that a prophet needs. (These can be listed on a large sheet of paper.) And ask if they know of anyone who could be called a prophet. We might all be called to be prophets at some time in our lives. When the time comes to stand out from the crowd and to be bold in proclaiming what we believe to be right and just we must be ready. Ready to say "yes" and to be open to the spirit of God that guides us. Pray with the children that they will be ready if called upon to be prophets. And that they will have all the gifts of strength and courage that they need to do the job of prophet well. You could help the children to draw up a description of the sort of person God is looking for to be a messenger to the people. Maybe it could be drawn up like an advertisement in the "Situations Vacant" column of a newspaper.

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, sculpture/picture of hands



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Fourteenth 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, you have called us to be your children. Help us to always be ready to do as we should and to help others to come to you.

R Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5

(if used)

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

Psalms 86

Response: Lord, you are good and forgiving

or Alleluia!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

(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 6: 1-6

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 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:

- Have you ever felt misunderstood or shunned or rejected or that someone is making fun of you because you have spoken the truth in a certain situation? Why do you think this happens? How did you deal with this – or who helped you deal with us?
- What is a prophet? (A prophet is someone who listens very deeply to God’s word and is used by God to teach people truthfully about the way God wants them to live)
 The prophet is often unwelcome among people. Especially among those who think they already know him or her very well. Prophets ruffle our feathers. Make us feel uncomfortable. Needle us.

- How do you feel about people who always remind you of your faults? Think up some words to describe them.
- Two people in today's readings were prophets sent by God to live among his chosen people. Ezekiel and Jesus. Both pointed out to the people where they were moving away from God's plan for them. Both were unpopular with the people. Why do you think this was so?
- What is the message for us in this story?
- Who do you think are the prophets in your school/parish/ city/ country today?

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

Penitential Rite

For the times I have not listened to the message from God's Word

Lord have mercy

For the times I have not behaved as I should

Christ have mercy



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 Īnoīnga 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 hopeful hearts and strong faith let us call upon God for our needs:

- For the Church, home of the faithful. that it will bring light into the world.
Let us pray to the Lord R **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That there will be peace 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 the land of Aotearoa New Zealand will welcome all people of good will.
Let us pray to the Lord R **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will learn to live side by side in harmony with all people.
Let us pray to the Lord R **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Generous God have mercy on us and on those for whom we pray, and hear our prayers which we make through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

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