



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

*White*

The First Reading for this day is from the Book of Revelations, and is considered unsuitable for young children. In accord with the guidelines offered by the Directory of Masses with Children, it is recommended that the focus of today's liturgy be the Gospel.

Luke 1:39-56



*God chose Mary to be the mother of his son, Jesus. Mary was always ready and willing to do whatever God wanted. Because she was so special she was taken up body and soul to be with Jesus in heaven – this is what 'Assumption' means. What qualities of Mary would we like to grow in our lives?*

### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Gospel for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

#### *GOSPEL*

Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound

of your voice, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on, all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants for ever.” And Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.



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

God has already been active in the lives of the two women who meet in today's Gospel. Elizabeth, a kinswoman of Mary, has conceived a child in her old age, by the grace of God. The journey Mary undertakes to go to her (and return) would have been arduous and difficult, from Nazareth in the North to the hills of Judea in the south. Both women are carrying children who are destined to play important roles in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth already knows the greater role that Mary plays, and her greeting affirms this. Mary's prayer, known as the Magnificat, points us towards the greatness of God. Nothing is impossible for God.

The Feast of the Assumption was declared dogma in 1950, but belief in God's action in taking Mary body and soul to heaven has been part of church tradition since around 500 AD. In New Zealand, our Church has been dedicated to Mary, assumed into heaven. The Feast of the Assumption is our Patronal Feast Day. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

## *Images from the Readings*

- Mary set out with haste
- Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
- My soul magnifies the Lord
- All generations will call me blessed

## *Reflection for Leaders*

Mary has always been upheld by the Church as the first model of discipleship. She perfectly co-operated with God's plan through her heartfelt 'Yes' to being the Mother of Jesus.

In today's Gospel, both Mary and Elizabeth have conceived as a result of the promise of God. Promises can carry power. Reflect on the promises that have been made to you in your life. Do you recognize ways in which God has honoured you, with promises? In what ways do you proclaim the greatness of God in your life?

This week, reflect on some of the things you know God has done for you, and give thanks once again.

## *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*

White cloth, Lectionary, candle, a statue or picture of Mary



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,*

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 whakataua*

**Leader:** O God, you have made for us a church of many people.  
Thank you for giving us companions on our journey to you. May we always welcome those who are outsiders and be friends to those in need.

**R Amen.**

## *GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)*

*Music © 2011 Maria Guzzo*



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



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

## *Gospel: Luke 1:39-56*

**Minister of the Word:**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

**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, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas:*

- What is a promise? Do you think it is important to keep a promise? Why? How do you feel when someone keeps a promise made to you?
- God wanted to keep a promise to his people to send us a Saviour. Both Elizabeth and Mary were helping God to keep his promise. He gave them special gifts because they said 'Yes' to helping that promise come true. Can you recognize those gifts in this story? (Joy, friendship, help for each other, filled with the Holy Spirit)
- Mary teaches us how to be a follower of Jesus and we know she is in heaven because she was true to God in her life and a wonderful mother to Jesus. This feast, the Assumption, is a special day in our Church year. It is the day when we remember and celebrate that God took Mary into heaven, body and soul, to be with Jesus forever because she helped him to keep his promise.
- Mary is so important to us that we use some of the words from our Gospel story today in our prayers and our hymns. Did you recognize some of those prayers or hymns? (Hail Mary, The Rosary, The Magnificat)

**5-7 year olds:** Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material. Then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'

## *LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia*

Sing *The Magnificat* or teach the children the prayer, *Hail Mary*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, 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 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: Knowing that when we pray our prayers are heard, let us call upon God for our needs:

- For the church that teaches her people to pray. Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For people in need, that we may notice and take time to help them. Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the courage to say 'Yes' to God even when we don't understand everything. 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 be wise in knowing what promises to make and faithful in keeping them Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Loving God, our maker and saviour, hear the prayers of your children.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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