



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B* *Green*

*'The Spirit gives life'*

Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b Psalm 34 Ephesians 6: 1-4 John 6:60-69



When Jesus had told the crowd  
that he was the living bread,  
many of them turned away  
and left because they did not believe in him.

### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty first 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*

John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples heard him speak about the bread of life and said, "This is too hard for anyone to understand."

Jesus knew that many of his disciples were grumbling. So he asked, "Does this bother you? What if you were to see the Son of Man go up to heaven where he came from?"

"The Spirit is the one who gives life! Human strength can do nothing. The words I have spoken to you are from that life-giving Spirit. But some of you refuse to have faith in me."

Jesus said this, because from the beginning he knew who would have faith in him. He also knew who would betray him.

Then Jesus said, "You cannot come to me unless the Father makes you want to come. That is why I have told these things to all of you."

Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and stopped following him.

Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they were going to leave him. Simon Peter answered, "Lord there is no one else we can go to! Your words give eternal life. We have faith in you, and we are sure that you are God's Holy One."

## FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2a,15-17,18b

Joshua brought together all the tribes of Israel and Shechem. Then he told their leaders, judges and officials to come into the presence of God.

Joshua told all of them what the God of Israel had said. He also told them, "If you don't want to serve the Lord, then today you must choose the god you will serve. You may choose the gods your ancestors worshipped on the other side of the river. Or you may choose one of the gods of the Amorites, since you are living in their land. But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord!"

The people answered, "We will never turn away from the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt. And with our own eyes we saw the powerful miracles he performed to protect us during the time that we travelled through the nations. The Lord is our God, and we will serve him too!"

## PSALM

Psalm 34

**Response:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord  
or Alleluia!

I will always praise the Lord. With all my heart I will praise the Lord.  
Let all who are helpless listen and be glad. **R**

When his people pray for help, he listens and he rescues them from their troubles.  
The Lord is there to rescue all who are discouraged  
and have given up hope. **R**

The Lord's people may suffer a lot, but he will always bring them  
safely through. Not one of their bones will ever be broken. **R**

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents. The first commandment with a promise says, "Obey your father and your mother, and you will have a long and happy life." Parents don't be too hard on your children. Raise them properly. Teach them and instruct them about the Lord.

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

For the past weeks the revelation of Jesus as the one sent from God has been unfolding. Jesus has been assuring us that as his followers we may draw life from him by eating his flesh and drinking his blood. This teaching was not hard just for the Jews of that day to accept – people today still struggle with an understanding of this truth. Many of the disciples cease to follow him. Jesus then turns to his closest companions and offers them a choice – they may go or they may stay. Peter again is an example of leadership as he answers Jesus' choice on behalf of the whole group with his wonderful words of faith. In the same way Joshua sets out a choice for the people in the first reading. Joshua, as Moses' successor, is the one who led the people of God into the Promised Land. All the tribes are called together to hear his last farewell, as Joshua asks them to choose between the gods of the land they now inhabit or the God of their ancestors. It is decision time for the people then, just as for the disciples of Jesus' day.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *This is too hard for anyone to understand*
- *Does this bother you?*
- *The words are from the life-giving Spirit*
- *There is no one else that we can go to*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

Jesus and Joshua gave their people a choice: the same choice that they each had been asked to make at the beginning of their ministry to the people of Israel. It is the choice that we also are each asked to make: a daily re-commitment to the will of God.

Past choices can become old and partially forgotten, or half-heartedly kept. They need to be revisited regularly to be revitalised. We need to keep on choosing Jesus, choosing to serve God for he is our God.

*This freedom to choose is essential to the Christian message. What made you choose to follow Christ? What are the alternatives that the world offers, and how attractive are they? What are some of the significant choices that you have made in your life? How do you go about making these major decisions? Are there things that stop you believing in all that Jesus taught? What are the teachings of Jesus that you find most challenging?*

## *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 (ordinary time),  
Lectionary, candle, a signpost*



# The Way

# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## *Twenty first 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 whakataau*

**Leader:** O God, we know that you love us and we try to love you. Guide us when we have to make choices and strengthen our trust in you.

**R Amen.**

### *First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b*

(if used)

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

### *Psalms 34*


**Response:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord


or **Alleluia!**

### *Second Reading: Ephesians 6:1-4*

(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 Asus<sup>4</sup> 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: John 6:60-69

**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:

**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:

- In today's Gospel Jesus has given the people a choice – even his disciples have to make a decision.
- Have you ever had to make a decision? Mostly your parents would make decisions for you, but sometimes you have your own choices to make at school and at home. Sometimes it can be very hard to choose. Sometimes it can help if we can use a signpost to help us see where we are heading.

Jesus told the people that choosing to follow him would sometimes be difficult and that he would help them.

- What did the disciples decide to do?
- Do you think that Jesus will help us to make difficult choices as well?  
Each time we decide to do what is right rather than what we want to do, we make a choice to follow Jesus. It is okay if we sometimes don't understand what we should do, or if aren't sure that the choices we make are the right ones.
- Can you think of a time when you have found it hard to understand what Jesus said?

**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*

Ask the children to say together the following prayer:

"Jesus, we believe in you and choose to follow your way.

Give us the bread of life to fill us with love and make our faith strong."



## *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, where the poor and broken-hearted find comfort  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a spirit of hope to bring nations and peoples together  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That people who live outside the law in Aotearoa-New Zealand will experience the love of Jesus and turn their lives around. Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For our parents, teachers and leaders, that they will have continuing, growing, strong faith. Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Ever faithful God hear the prayers the children of your church make to you through Jesus Christ, our Lord

All: **Amen**

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



# Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

## Liquid Pictures

John 6:60-69

The Spirit gives life

**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:** The Spirit is the one who gives life ...

The Spirit brings peace!

The Spirit brings joy!

The Spirit guides!

The Spirit teaches us to forgive!

The Spirit shows us how to be gentle!

**Leader:** The Spirit is the one who gives life!



*From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, [www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au](http://www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au). Available from the Liturgy Centre.*