



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Follow me!'

Isaiah 50:4-8a Psalm 116 James 2:14-18 Mark 8:31-35

Today we hear Jesus asking his followers
a difficult question:
"Who do you think I am?"
Listen carefully, and see which disciple
gave the right answer.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty-fourth 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 8:31-35

Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him. He said, "The nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly. He will be rejected and killed, but three days later he will rise to life."

Then Jesus explained clearly what he meant.

Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that. But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples, he corrected Peter. He said to him, "Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God."

Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said:

"If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me and for the good news, you will save it."

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-8a

The Lord All-Powerful gives me just the right words to comfort the weary. Each morning he makes me eager to learn his teaching.

The Lord All-Powerful made me willing to listen and not rebel or run away. And so, I let them beat my back and pull out my beard. I didn't turn aside when they made fun of me and spit in my face. But the Lord God keeps me from being embarrassed. And I refuse to give up, because I know I will never be ashamed. My Protector is nearby. No one can stand here and accuse me of any wrong.

PSALM

Psalms 116

Response: **I will walk in the presence of the Lord.**
 or Alleluia!

I love you, Lord! You answered my prayers.

You paid attention to me, and so I will pray to you as long as I live. **R**

You are kind, Lord, and good and merciful.

You protect ordinary people, and when I was helpless, you saved me. **R**

You, Lord, have saved my life from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

Now I will walk at your side in this land of the living. **R**

SECOND READING

James 2:14-18

My friends, what good is it to say you have faith, when you don't do anything to show that you really do have faith? Can that kind of faith save you?

If you know someone who doesn't have any clothes or food, you shouldn't say, "I hope all goes well for you. I hope you will be warm and have plenty to eat."

What good is it to say this, unless you do something to help? Faith that doesn't lead us to do good deeds is all alone and dead!

Suppose someone disagrees and says, "It is possible to have faith without doing kind deeds."

I would answer, "Prove that you have faith without doing kind deeds, and I will prove that I have faith by doing them."

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

The Gospel above, taken from the Lectionary for Masses with Children, is a shortened form of today's Gospel. Leaders may choose to read the Gospel in full, so as to fully highlight Peter's confession of faith, and to give fuller context to Jesus' acceptance of the Cross. Often as disciples of Jesus while professing our faith we are also faced with struggles and trials that also challenge our faith. Jesus' acceptance of the inevitability of the Cross challenged Peter's faith. In professing our faith, like Peter, we must come to think like God. See longer version below:

(Mark 8:27-35)

Jesus and his disciples went to the villages near the town of Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "What do people say about me?" The disciples answered, "Some say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah. Others say you are one of the prophets." Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?" "You are the Messiah!" Peter replied. Jesus warned the disciples not to tell anyone about him. Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him. He said, "The nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly. He will be rejected and killed, but three days later he will rise to life." Then Jesus explained clearly what he meant. Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that. But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples, he corrected Peter. He said to him, "Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God." Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said: "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me and for the good news, you will save it."

The people have been asking who Jesus is and there have been lots of rumours flying about regarding him and his background including those that say he is out of his mind and in league with the devil. Jesus challenges the disciples asking them who they say he is and Peter answers on their behalf. "You are the Christ" But the idea that Peter and the other disciples have of the Messiah is different from that of the Suffering Servant which is the role of the redeeming Jesus. So Jesus has to take Peter back from his self-assumed position as defender of that notion, bring him back to reality with a jolt "Get behind me, Satan!" - there is a message here for the others as well.

Images from the Readings

- eager to learn
- doing kind deeds
- take up your cross and follow me

Reflection for Leaders

There is a message here for us all, not to let the stumbling blocks of our everyday lives get in the way of our journey to God. We do say “yes” with Peter and the others: “You are the Christ” and hosanna and hooray! but when the going gets tough and we are called upon to be suffering servants in our turn aren’t we like Peter then too, don’t we begin then to draw the line and say, that is not what I meant, this is not it at all, this is not for me at all, this is where I jump off, I draw the line here. Not if we are followers of the true Messiah, Jesus Christ who died for us on a cross, Jesus who said “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine let them take their cross and follow me.” There is nothing in Jesus message about if it suits you or when you are ready or if it’s not too hard for you or only on Sundays or feast days. Now is the time, always is the time. Look at the cross of Jesus what does it teach us? If we are looking for a triumphant Christianity we must look closely at the way Jesus triumphed, look at the woman at the well story, the story of Martha’s family, the story of Peter’s life, in these stories and all the smaller stories surrounding the life of Jesus we discover Jesus’ way “I am meek and humble of heart”

To accept the cross means to live as Jesus did. Jesus promised that those who do this will live forever.

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 beautiful cross



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty fourth 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 give us gifts and graces that we might serve you. We want to be followers of Jesus. Help us to learn to serve others too.

R Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-8a

(if used)

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

Psalm 116

Response: I will walk in the presence of the Lord.

or Alleluia!

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

(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 8:31-35

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

Some things that we do we find hard. It is not always easy to do as our parents or teachers tell us.

- Ask the children to name some of the things that they find difficult to do. (Going to the doctor, learning to swim, meeting new adults). List these and ask the children how they feel when they have to do something difficult.
 Ask them what helps them to do this difficult thing? (Mum comes with me, I get a reward for being brave, I pray for Jesus to be with me).
- How do you feel when that difficult thing is over and done with? (proud, brave, glad).

We are happy to be followers of Jesus. Just as a lamb follows the shepherd we know that we are safe when following the ways of our Lord.

- In the First Reading what does Isaiah say about what God has done for him?
- What has God given him strength to do?
- What has God done for you?
- In the Gospel what did Jesus ask his disciples? What is Jesus' message to those who follow him? What can we expect if we decide to follow Jesus?
- In your life now what good action do you find hard to do?
- What does Jesus mean when he says "If you want to be my follower, take up your cross and follow me?"

Help the children to understand that "taking up your cross" and following Jesus means to live and love as Jesus did. Encourage the children to share how they might do this.

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

Sing the acclamation:

Lord by your cross and resurrection,
 You have set us free.
 You are the Saviour of the World.



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: With today's readings still in our hearts let us ask God for our needs:

- For the Church that guides and leads us. Let us pray to the Lord.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For peace in the world, an end to violence. Let us pray to the Lord.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the people of Aotearoa New Zealand will live as one people. Let us pray to the Lord.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will try to see ourselves and each other as God sees us and be grateful for the skills and gifts each of us has been given. Let us pray to the Lord.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Loving God, from you we receive life. Have mercy on us and those for whom we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

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