



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Serve others'

James 3: 17-18 Psalm 122 Mark 9: 33-37



In today's Gospel the disciples were arguing and fighting about who was the best and the most important. They were jealous of one another. It is OK to feel jealous – we all do that from time to time – but Jesus is warning us about how we behave or act when we are jealous.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty fifth 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. *In accordance with the instructions in the "Directory for Masses with Children", and in keeping with the readings in the Lectionary for Masses with Children, this week's second reading replaces the first, which has been omitted.*

GOSPEL

Mark 9:33-37

Jesus and his disciples went to his home in Capernaum. After they were inside the house, Jesus asked them, "What were you arguing about along the way?" They had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest, and so they did not answer.

After Jesus sat down and told the twelve disciples to gather around him, he said, "If you want the place of honour, you must become a slave and serve others!" Then Jesus had a child stand near him. He put his arm around the child and said, "When you welcome even a child because of me, you welcome me. And when you welcome me, you welcome the one who sent me."

Brothers and sisters:

The wisdom that comes from above leads us to be pure, friendly, gentle, sensible, kind, helpful, genuine, and sincere. When peacemakers plant seeds of peace, they will harvest justice.

PSALM

Psalm 122

Response: **Give peace O Lord, to those who wait for you.**

or Alleluia!

It made me glad to hear them say,
Let's go to the house of the Lord!
Jerusalem, we are standing inside your gates. **R**

Because of my friends and my relatives,
I will pray for peace.
And because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will work for your good. **R**

Background to the Readings for Leaders

The wisdom that comes from above is now seen through the Christian perspective. The virtues of kindness, love and consideration are set over against greed in all its manifestations. The Gospel reading takes place directly after the transfiguration, as Jesus and the disciples were 'coming back to the realities of life'.

This passage contains a specific reference to the coming passion of Jesus Christ, where Jesus is teaching his disciples about his death and resurrection. This is sometimes referred to as the Paschal mystery. Pasch is derived from the Hebrew word pesach meaning to 'pass over'.

Jesus reinforces his words about being least of all by sitting down, assuming a position beneath his disciples, and putting a child before them. In the ancient world, a teacher's head was customarily never lower than his disciple's heads, and children were entirely without status.

Images from the Readings

- *What were you arguing about?*
- *Being the greatest*
- *Trusting God*
- *Becoming a slave and serving others*
- *Welcoming/being a child*

Reflection for Leaders

While this Gospel predicts the passion and death of Jesus, there are a number of other themes involved – one of which is the message that special hospitality should be offered to those from whom we can benefit the least. The trust that Jesus places in God he compares to the trust of a little child. Jesus uses the opportunity of the discussion over who is the greatest to teach the disciples what the ideal of "first place" must be in the Church community which they will become once he is no longer with them. Our faith should make a difference in the way we treat others. Jesus draws on the simplicity and humility of the child as a model for us.

If you consider one or two of the 'great' people you know, how could they be described as servants?

What is it about children that leads Jesus to make acceptance of them a test of the disciples' attitude to him?

Are there things that I do not understand and am afraid to ask?

What are my ambitions? Is service of others among them?



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,



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

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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 made us to help one another. Help us to serve those we live with - our families and our classmates at school.

R Amen.

First Reading: James 3:17-18

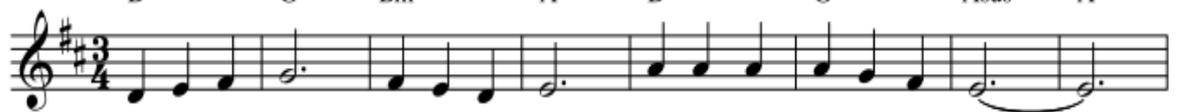
(if used) The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki
Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalm 122

Response: Give peace O Lord, to those who wait for you.

or Alleluia!

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 9:33-37

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

- Have you ever had an argument? What are arguments usually about?
- How do you feel when you see that someone else is behaving as they should and you are not? What do you do about it?
- Why did the disciples not want to answer when Jesus asked them what they were arguing about? What was his advice to them when they were arguing?
- What did Jesus mean when he said, “If you want the place of honour, you must become a slave and serve others.”?

- Do you ever think you are better than somebody else, or perhaps argue with someone as to which of you is better at doing something?
- Direct the discussion to acknowledge those who are in authority in the children's lives, and those who 'serve' them
 - are these sometimes the same people?



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 name one person who is in authority in their lives.
Pray for these people.

*Sing **The Servant Song** together (composed by New Zealander Richard Gillard)*

(Gather Australia No. 487, As One Voice Vol.2 No. 169, or

<http://www.ocp.org/compositions/13143>)

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: Let us pray to our God for our needs:

- For leaders in the Church who will be the servants of all people. Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the spirit of service will grow in all people around the world. Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we learn to serve those we live beside in our daily lives, with a good attitude. Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For peace in our hearts and our homes. Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: O God, you care for your people. Hear the prayers that we your children make to you through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Chorus play

Mark 9:33-37

How to be great

Note to leaders: The following **chorus play** is appropriate to use with children of any age but especially suitable for **younger children**.

Leader: We're planting seeds of peace!

Chorus: Seeds of peace.

Leader: We're planting seeds of hope!

Chorus: Seeds of hope!

Leader: We're planting seeds of truth!

Chorus: Seeds of truth!

Leader: Be a servant – be gentle!

Chorus: Be Gentle.

Leader: Be a servant – be kind!

Chorus: Be kind!

Leader: Be a servant – be sensible!

Chorus: Be sensible!

Leader: We're planting seeds of friendship.

Chorus: Seeds of friendship. Amen.



From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.