



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Let the children come to me!'

Genesis 2: 18-24 Psalm 128 Mark 10:13-16



The Readings today speak to us about God's commitment to human partnership and the welfare of all creation as well as Jesus commitment to children, the model for all who belong to the kingdom of heaven. We are made in the image and likeness of God. How do we reflect this divine care for creation and our common humanity in the everyday moments of our lives?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty seventh 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 10: 13-16

Some people brought their children to Jesus so that he could bless them by placing his hands on them. But the disciples told the people to stop bothering him.

When Jesus saw this, he became angry and said, "Let the children come to me! Don't try to stop them. People who are like these little children belong to the kingdom of God. I promise you that you cannot get into God's kingdom unless you accept it the way a child does."

Then Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them by placing his hands on them.

The Lord God said, "It isn't good for Adam to be alone! I need to make the right kind of partner for him."

The Lord then took some earth and made all the animals and birds. He brought them to Adam to see what names he would give each of them. Adam named all of the tame animals and all of the birds and the wild animals. That's how they got their names.

Not one of the animals was the right kind of partner for Adam. So the Lord God made him fall into a deep sleep, and he took out one of Adam's ribs. Then after closing Adam's side, the Lord made a woman out of the rib.

The Lord God brought her to Adam, and Adam shouted, "Now here is someone like me! She is part of my body, my own flesh and bones! She came from me, a man. So I will call her Woman!" That's why a man will leave his father and mother. He marries a woman, and the two of them become like one person.

Response: **May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.**
 or Alleluia!

The Lord will bless you if you respect him and obey his laws.
 Your fields will produce and you will be happy and all will go well. **R**

Your wife will be as fruitful as a grapevine,
 And just as an olive tree is rich with olives,
 Your home will be rich with healthy children. **R**

That is how the Lord will bless everyone who respects him.
 I pray that the Lord will bless you from Zion
 And let Jerusalem prosper as long as you live. **R**

Background to the Readings for Leaders

The scene of Jesus with the child shows us how far the disciples were from accepting the teachings of Jesus about welcoming children. To be able to welcome the kingdom of God as a child does is to recognise, despite human failure, the value of God's original design for woman and man. The purpose of the sacred myth recounted in the First Reading is to impress upon us that God created woman and man in a relationship with one another, a relationship and partnership that is to last until the last day; we are locked in partnership as co-inhabitants of God's creation. This co-habitation is a permanent relationship and interrelationship that each of us has to work at if it is going to be productive and flourish. This relationship needs commitment by all of us to make it work. The kind of commitment that Jesus had for the people of his time.

Images from the Readings

- Right kind of partner
- Names
- Here is someone like me
- Let the children come to me
- Jesus took the children in his arms

Reflection for Leaders

List in your mind all the qualities you think are important components of a commitment, qualities like honesty, trust, openness, dependability etc. God puts a seal on the sacredness of the union of woman and man, on partnership and the co-operative nature of the edict to "fill the earth and make it yours". This is a seal on the liaison between all women and all men - this is to be a co-operative endeavour. The blessed nature of humanity is emphasised in the story.

In the Gospel Jesus points to the example of children not because they are naive but because they are more open to reality and to the workings of the spirit than adults.

The Readings today speak to us about commitment to each other and to all people, commitment to the common humanity that binds us all to each other. The Readings speak of the major commitments we make to each other, marriage particularly, but also of Jesus' commitment to us (Second Reading, Hebrews 2:9-11, not used with the children this Sunday) and to children (Gospel) and God's commitment to the welfare of creation (First Reading). Ask the children to list the things that make commitments strong. In the Readings the equality of the woman and the man is also stressed.

Reflecting on the Readings with the children

Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline. 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 you may need to 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, pictures of our beautiful world, of animals, birds, people/children of all different nationalities. (Some sample pictures follow)



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty seventh 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 – Powhiri 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 Lord, you made us to be your children. Help us to love and respect one another as part of your whole family, the Church.

R Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

(if used)

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

Psalms 128

Response: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.
or Alleluia!



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: Mark 19:13-16

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:

Using the pictures that you have placed on your focus, ask:

- What sort of God is pictured in the First Reading? (Try to get from the children the idea of a creator God.)
- What things do you see in your everyday life that reminds you of God?
- What are Jesus' feelings about children? From what you heard in the Gospel, what does Jesus tell us about children?
- What do you think it is that Jesus loves so much about little children?
- What do you know about this word: commitment? What in your life are you committed to? When people ask you to be committed to what you are doing or to a group to which you belong what do they mean?

- Do you know of any signs or symbols that people wear that tell you about their special commitment? (Try to get around to discussing wedding rings, silver or gold rings that mark a commitment, badges, dress that marks a commitment to a profession or occupation, uniform, some people wear a cross to show their commitment to Jesus.)
- Commitment is one idea that flows out of today's readings.
- When God made people, he gave us an important job to do. We are to look after this world – all the growing plants, animals, birds and the places where they live as carefully as possible. We are to look after one another, sharing the things we need to live well and healthily, taking care of one another, especially the children!
- Are there any young people here who are ready to help God look after the world? That's good! Could we make a fresh start/ *a new commitment* today? How? Talk over their ideas and do your best to encourage them to put into practice the ideas that are practical. (Consider collecting litter, recycling newspapers, cans, bottles, composting etc. and affirming what the children participate in at home and school already.)

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 Rītenga Karakia

Before beginning this prayer, invite the children to think of a friend who needs God's special help.

Creator God, thank you for this new day,
 bless me,
 and my family,
 and my friends today,
 especially who needs your help.

Help me to be kind today,
 to learn my lessons well,
 and to care for your creation.

May I be happy with friends who are happy,
 and care for those who are troubled or sad,
 that with your strength
 I can serve you, my God,
 all this day.



(from *Prayer Kids*, Rosemary and Peter Atkins)

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 God who created us and provides for our needs:

- For the Church, the church where the poor and the unhappy are welcome. Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For good and compassionate rulers who care for their people as a mother cares for her new child. Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the love we have for each other will bind us together at all times. Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the burden of sickness and suffering will be lifted from those who are suffering. Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Caring God, our creator and our hope, bless 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.