



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B*

*Green*

### *'The call from Jesus'*

*Jeremiah 31: 7-9 Psalm 125 Hebrews 5: 1-6 Mark 10: 46-52*



*Have you ever called out to Jesus  
as blind Bartimaeus did?*

*Not only did this blind man recognise who Jesus is,  
he also realised what Jesus can do.*

*Jesus responds with the classic call to discipleship,  
"Call him here."*

*How did you respond to the call from Jesus  
to come closer?*

### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Thirtieth 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 10:46-52

Jesus and his disciples went to Jericho. As they were leaving they were followed by a large crowd.

A blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting beside the road. When he heard it was Jesus from Nazareth, he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!"

Many people told the man to stop, but he shouted all the louder, "Son of David, have pity on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him over!"

They called out to the blind man and said, "Don't be afraid! Come on! He is calling for you."

The man threw off his coat as he jumped up and ran to Jesus. Jesus asked: "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man answered, "Master, I want to see!"

Jesus told him, "You may go. Your eyes are healed because of your faith."

Right away the man could see, and he went down the road with Jesus.

## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31;7-9

The Lord says: "Celebrate and rejoice for Israel, the greatest nation of all. Offer praises and shout, "'Rescue your people Lord! Save what is left of Israel'

"I will bring my people back from that country in the north and from everywhere else. The blind and the lame will be there. Expectant mothers and women about to give birth will return and be a part of that great crowd.

"They will cry and pray as I bring them home. They won't stumble as I will lead them along a level road to streams of water.

"I am a father to Israel, and they are my favourite children."

## PSALM

Psalm 125

**Response:**                    **The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**  
   **or        Alleluia!**

It seemed like a dream when the Lord brought us back to the city of Zion.  
We celebrated with laughter and joyful songs. **R**

Our Lord, we ask you to bless your people again,  
and let us be like streams in the southern desert.  
We cried as we went out to plant our seeds.  
Now let us celebrate as we bring in the crops. **R**

We cried on our way to plant our seeds,  
But we will celebrate and shout as we bring in the crops. **R**

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:1-6

Brothers and sisters: Every high priest is appointed to help others by offering gifts and sacrifices to God because of their sins. A high priest has weaknesses of his own, and he feels sorry for weak and foolish people. That is why he must offer sacrifices for his own sins and for the sins of others.

But no one can have the honour of being a high priest simply by wanting to be one. Only God can choose a priest and God is the one who chose Aaron.

That is how it was with Christ. He became a high priest, but not just because he wanted the honour of being one. It was God who told him, "You are my Son, because today I have become your Father!" In another place, God says, "You are a priest forever just like Melchizedek."

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

The First Reading is a cause for hope and joy for the people of God especially the lost, the homeless, the disabled, the disadvantaged, those with child, all are given hope and can rejoice in the loving intervention of their God. Jeremiah was writing at a time when the Babylonian empire was threatening Israel and most of his writing pointed to the behaviour of the people as being the cause of their imminent doom.

The writer of the Hebrews reinforces the joy of finding in Jesus the priestly figure who acts as a go-between for people of all time, willingly taking their part as they strive to enter into the kingdom of God.

The Gospel reading shows how Jesus is the fulfilment of the promises made by the prophets. The blind see, the deaf hear, the lame leap with joy as they enter the kingdom of a God who never gives up and longs to bring his people home.

## *Images from the Readings*

- Stop
- Call him
- Don't be afraid
- Threw off his coat
- Jumped up and ran
- Bring them home

## *Reflection for Leaders*

The Lord's words in the First Reading are like holding a sheltering umbrella over the heads of the people. The Lord can be seen through the language of the reading shepherding the people through the desert to a promised land 'flowing with milk and honey'. All the while they are cradled in God's loving arms. The journey of the people is emphasised here, that they will be led beside brooks of running water, such a soothing image for people who are in the grip of the fear of defeat, destruction and slavery, the Lord promises to make their path straight and smooth without stones or bumps they might stumble over.



We find Bartimaeus in today's Gospel story, a blind beggar, sitting beside the road, crying out for Jesus who is passing by on his way up to Jerusalem. Asking to be made whole and to receive his sight, Bartimaeus is told by Jesus to go on his way, that his faith has made him well. He receives his sight and follows Jesus along the road.

We can see how the two readings match, in the Gospel Jesus has become the flesh and blood messenger of the way to salvation, stripping away and lifting the blindness from those who cannot see and setting them down on the road to follow him.

Let's put ourselves in the place of Bartimaeus. What do we ask of Jesus and what are our blind spots?

## *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, Lectionary, a candle, a blindfold



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## *Thirtieth 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 help us to see what is right, and how we should behave to others. Help us to live good lives and to help each other.

**R** Amen.

### *First Reading: Jeremiah 31;7-9*

(if used)

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

*Psalm 125* **Response:** **The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

or **Alleluia!**

### *Second Reading: Hebrews 1;5-6*

(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: Mark 10:46-52

**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:

Today's Gospel is the story of the blind man whom Jesus healed. Do you have any children among your group who are visually impaired? They may be able to enrich this discussion. Alternatively, one or two children may volunteer to experience being blindfolded while you have this discussion?

- Ask the children to remember what games they have played when they have been blind folded. (blind man's bluff; pin the tail on the donkey). Ask them to share what that experience was like for them.

- Why do you think the people told Bartimaeus to stop calling out? (He was a nuisance, he couldn't join in, they could see that Jesus was there) Did Bartimaeus stop calling out? Why not? How did Jesus respond to Bartimaeus when he heard him calling out? How did Jesus response change the people's attitude to Bartimaeus? What did they do now?
- How did Bartimaeus respond to Jesus' call and the encouragement of the people around him? What gift did Jesus give to Bartimaeus? What did Bartimaeus do when his eyes were healed? Take the blindfold off the children who participated in this story and ask them what they would like to offer this discussion.

Try to lead the children to see that there are different kinds of blindness – sometimes we can see things but not understand, or we can 'refuse' to see some things at all (use the different ways the people behaved around Bartimaeus to help this discussion). Explain that this is a story about faith and we can ask Jesus to help us to 'see' how we can live the new way of life as one of his followers.

**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*

Pray together:



Jesus, you made blind Bartimaeus to see,  
 Open my eyes to your love.  
 Jesus, you made the deaf people hear again,  
 Open my ears to hear your truth  
 Jesus, you help me to live your new way of life  
 Fill me with your joy.



## *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: With hopeful hearts let us ask God for our needs:

- For the Church home to the poor of heart. Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For justice and peace for all people. Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a government in Aotearoa New Zealand that shows it cares for the poor. Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will show care for each other. Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Merciful God bless us and those for whom we pray, hear our prayers made to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

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