



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

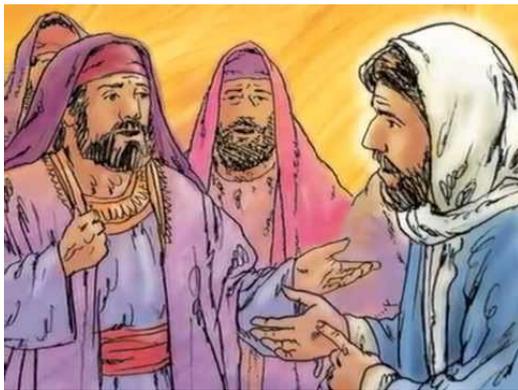
Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

*'Love the Lord your God, Love your neighbour'*

Deuteronomy 6:2-1, Psalm 18, Hebrews 7:26, Mark 12:28-31



The first commandment that Jesus quotes is the great Jewish prayer known as the Shema (Deut 6: 4-5). This prayer is still recited each morning and evening by practicing Jews.

This is an opportunity to ask ourselves how/if we still begin and end each day in prayer. Reciting this verse would be an ideal way to renew the practice of morning and evening prayer.

### Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Thirty 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

Mark 12:28-31

One of the teachers of the Law of Moses came up while Jesus and the Sadducees were arguing. When he heard Jesus give a good answer, he asked him, "What is the most important question?"

Jesus answered, "The most important one says: 'People of Israel, you have only one Lord and God. You must love him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.' The second most important commandment says: 'Love others as much as you love yourself.' No other commandment is more important than these."

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: "You, your children, and all your descendants must respect the Lord. And as long as you live, you must obey all his laws and commands that I am teaching you. If you do this, you will live a long time.

"People of Israel, listen carefully and obey all these laws. Your nation will grow strong and you will prosper in this land that is rich in milk and honey. This is what the Lord God of your ancestors has promised you.

"Listen, people of Israel! Only the Lord is our God. You must love the Lord with all your heart, soul and strength. Don't forget anything I am telling you today."

## PSALM

Psalm 18

**Response:**                    **I love you Lord, my strength.**  
   **or     Alleluia!**

I love you, Lord God, and you make me strong.  
You are my mighty rock, my fortress, my protector. **R**

You are the living God! I will praise you.  
You are a mighty rock.  
I will honour you for keeping me safe. **R**

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 7:26

Brothers and sisters:

Jesus is the high priest we need. He is holy and innocent and faultless, and not at all like us sinners. Jesus is honoured above all beings in heaven.

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

The First Reading is part of a new and different call for the people of Israel to have faith in one God. For them heart, mind and soul are not three separate parts but one. Love of heart, mind and soul means total commitment.

In Matthew's Gospel the scribes question was: "Teacher what is the greatest commandment of the law?" Today, in Mark's Gospel, Jesus is in Jerusalem being confronted by the questions of the scribes and elders of the Jews. They try to trap Jesus but he explains their law to them in a way that they must accept, forcing them to agree with him, and he with them. (This was an uneasy and uncomfortable partnership for them.) And so they stop their probing questions. Jesus makes for his listeners and us the link between two cornerstone beliefs of the Jewish faith, proclaiming them one commandment, telling us if we cannot love our neighbour then we do not love God. We cannot separate the two: love is the fulfilment of the law. The final words 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' reflect Mark's preoccupation with the kingdom that has been proclaimed and is at hand. That kingdom is being continually proclaimed when love of neighbour and of God rule the community.

## *Images from the Readings*

- Listen
- Love
- Important

## *Reflection for Leaders*

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with your whole mind, with your whole soul and with all your strength. What does this sentence tell us about ourselves and our God. What does this phrase tell us about the relationship we have with God, what does it tell us about God's relationship with us? It tells us who we are, where we came from, where we are going and how we are going to get there. All the law and every idea anyone ever had are summed up in this one relationship. Our duty is to live it out. The psalm sums up our response to the Good News of God's love for us and our recognition that we must love God and our neighbour before all else, it is a song of love and praise to God, a personal God, a God who is close at hand:

*....I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise: ....*

It is love that describes our response to the Lord and to each other because somehow they are mixed together in the curious chemistry that we are.

## *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 chart with times table or the alphabet on it



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Thirty First Sunday 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:** Loving God, you call us your children and command us to love one another. With your help we will try to love each other and serve you.

**R Amen.**

### First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

(if used)

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

### Psalm 18

**Response:**

I love you, Lord, my strength.

or Alleluia!

### First Reading: Hebrews 7:26

(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 12:28-34*

- 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:*

Refer to the chart/s you have on the focus table and ask the children to share some of the things that they know “off by heart”. ( songs, times tables, alphabet, poem, table manners, rules for games...)

Then ask what is useful about knowing some things “off by heart”. (trains your memory, helps you to read, play, do maths or other difficult tasks more easily, work things out in your head without needing paper, helps you to do good things automatically)

Today's Gospel clearly tells us how to love and serve God. "With all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" and "Love your neighbour as yourself". If we do this then we are living exactly the way that God wants

In fact this commandment is so important that people sometimes refer to it as the "golden rule" Why do you think they might have given it that name? If we can concentrate on following this teaching how simple everything becomes. Renewing our intention to live in this way at the beginning and end of each day is a good way forward.

So we are going to try learning this golden commandment that was first given to Moses, for the people of Israel, then later given by Jesus, to all his followers, as a new way of life, "off by heart". Practice the following words and actions with the children, then use it prayerfully as the Liturgical Action. This can be sung to the tune of "London's Burning"

**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'

### **Images from the Readings**

## *LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia*

You shall love the	(hands on hearts)
Lord your God with	(point upwards)
All your heart and	(hands on hearts)
All your mind and	(hold hands on heads)
All your strength! All your strength!	(show biceps)
And love each other, and love each other.	(arms around your neighbour's shoulders)

From *Living Water*, Susan Sayers with Fr Andrew Moore. Kevin Mayhew



## *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 call on our merciful God for all our needs:

- For the Church, that her leaders will be wise and serve her people.  
Let us pray to the Lord.      R      Lord hear our prayer  
or      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For an end to the suffering and misery of people caused by unjust governments.  
Let us pray to the Lord.      R      Lord hear our prayer  
or      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For people who suffer loneliness and who have no family or friends.  
Let us pray to the Lord.      R      Lord hear our prayer  
or      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will be the ones who reach out in friendship to the lonely and those without friends.  
Let us pray to the Lord.      R      Lord hear our prayer  
or      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** Merciful God, look with compassion on your people, hear the prayers we make to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:**      **Amen**

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