



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'A poor widow's offering'

I Kings 17: 10-16 Psalm 146 Mark 12: 41-44



Today's readings show us that God cannot be outdone in generosity and the call for us is to match this generosity. All is surrendered, nothing is held back. The total giving of the widow prefaces the total self-giving of Jesus on the cross in Mark's Gospel.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Thirty Second 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 12:41-44

Jesus was sitting in the temple near the offering box and watching people put in their gifts. He noticed that a lot of rich people were giving a lot of money.



Finally, a poor widow came up and put in two small coins that were worth only a few pennies.

Jesus told his disciples to gather around him. He said: "I tell you that this poor widow has put in more than all the others. Everyone else gave what they didn't need. But she is very poor and gave everything she had. Now she doesn't have a cent to live on."

Elijah went to Zarephath, and near the city gate he saw a widow gathering sticks for a fire. He asked her to bring him a cup of water. When she started off to get the water, he asked, "Would you also bring me a piece of bread?"

The widow answered, "In the name of the living Lord your God, I swear that I don't have any bread! All I have is a handful of flour and a little olive oil. I'm on my way home now with these sticks to cook what I have for my son and me. After that we'll starve to death."

Elijah told the woman, "Don't worry! Do as you have said and fix something for yourself and your son. But first, make me a small piece of bread. The Lord God of Israel has promised that your jar of flour won't become empty, and your jar of oil will not dry up before he sends rain for the crops."

The widow left and did exactly what Elijah told her. So every day the widow and her family had food to eat. There was always flour and oil, just as the Lord had promised and Elijah had said.

PSALM

Psalm 146

Response: **Praise the Lord my soul!**
 or Alleluia!

God always keeps his word.

He gives justice to the poor and food to the hungry. **R**

The Lord sets prisoners free and heals blind eyes.

He gives a helping hand to everyone who falls. **R**

The Lord loves good people and looks after strangers.

He defends the rights of widow and orphans. **R**

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

It was during a long drought, which became an important part in Elijah's ministry that he encountered a widow in Zarephath, near Sidon, at the time everyone was suffering from the lack of rain and a shortage of food. Elijah himself is desperate as he approaches the woman gathering some scraps of sticks which she is about to use to prepare the family's last meal before they starve to death.

The two paragraphs that make up today's Gospel compare the religion of the Scribes and the Pharisees, who make sure they are seen to obey the Law, with the religion of the poor widow, who in the midst of the crowd drops her two cent pieces into the temple treasury collection. Jesus compares the men who "swallow the poverty of widows" with the widow herself. She was down to her last cent but gave it to God, even though it was all she had to live on.

as they enter the kingdom of a God who never gives up and longs to bring his people home.

Images from the Readings

- Two coins
- Everything
- Cup of water
- Did exactly what she was told

Reflection for Leaders

The jar of flour shall not be spent or the jar of oil fail, ".....until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth." Once again we hear the echo in today's First Reading of the phrase that is kept before us forever throughout scripture - "the Lords ways are not our ways". Once again faith and belief are rewarded with the providence of God. We can make this real for the children by sharing with them stories of people's faith that has prevailed through sickness and hardship of every kind. In the Gospel Jesus holds up for us an example of a person of goodness and faith - the poor widow who put a cent into the collection at the temple, put in everything she had, her whole living, and what an act of faith that was! What a detailed and interesting picture is painted in this scene from the life of Jesus. We see him seated there watching the people make their offerings to the temple treasury, some gave a lot of money, but Jesus focuses the attention of his disciples on the figure of the poor widow in the midst of the throng who gives all she has, about two one cent coins, and is swallowed up by the crowd. She must have been self-conscious, how did the other people treat her, how did she feel we wonder? These are all questions you can explore for yourself and the children. You can see how readily this story and that of the First Reading lend themselves to dramatic mime. Mime the generousness of the widow in both stories with small but open hearted gestures, contrasting with the loud, flamboyance and expansive gestures of the rich and their giving from their abundance, also with the fine clothes and manner and the respect generated by the scribes and Pharisees. We can focus on the importance of giving generously; not from our excess but from our own needs, showing our faith in a providential God.

God calls us to be generous in sharing what we have, it is the importance in us of the interior religion that God finds acceptable.

The Psalm today is very important because it sums up the spirit of the readings:

*"It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who is just to those who are oppressed."*

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

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Green cloth, Lectionary, a candle, some coins (play or real money)



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Thirty Second 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 give us life that we can serve you and give our love to others. Help us to give to others with generous hearts.

R Amen.

First Reading: *1 Kings 17:10-16*

(if used)

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

Psalm 146

Response: Praise the Lord my soul!

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 12:41-44

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 money on the focus table and ask:

- What would you do if you had two dollars to spend on a present for someone else? Talk about what fun it is to work out what we can do with two dollars and look out for some creative ideas like buying material to make something. How do you feel when people enjoy what you chose for them? What is it like when people say thank you? Can you think of some ways you can be generous to others without needing to spend any money? (sharing our time, talents, helpfulness, keeping our promises and commitments we make to others)
- Jesus wanted to teach his disciples about what it means to be generous. Who did he use as an example to them? Why did Jesus say she was more generous than the rich

people even though she only gave two small coins? If you were Jesus teaching the disciples, what would you hope would happen next in this story? (the disciples might share some food with her or share some coins so she could buy some food)

- Can you think of someone else who was generous in the first story we read? What did she have to share? How difficult do you think it would have been for her to obey Elijah? What did she expect to have left for herself and her son? How are the woman in the Gospel and the woman in the first reading alike? How are they different? What do you think Jesus wants us to learn about God's generosity? What do you think Jesus wants us to learn about being generous too?
- Can you think of some wonderfully generous gifts that God gives all of us, every day? (good homes, food, families, friends, lots of sunshine to keep us warm, rain to make the plants grow, plenty of fresh air to keep us healthy, a beautiful world to make us happy)

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



Invite the children to make one generous gift of their time, talent, help or pocket money to serve someone else this week. Help them to be practical and real about their ideas, according to their age. Ask the children to speak their promises out loud then offer them all to God in the name of Jesus, our teacher and friend.



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 protector of the poor.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those without shelter and food.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those who cannot find work in our country that they will not lose hope.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For our elderly, sick and lonely people.
R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Merciful God you care for your people, shower your blessings upon us and on those for whom we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

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

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Liquid Pictures

Mark 12:41-44

A poor widow's offering

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

How to do liquid pictures:

Liquid Pictures is a form of drama which allows a story to be presented in a flowing or liquid manner. The process follows this pattern:

- Divide the story or Scriptural passage into five or six main statements.
- Accompany each statement with a simple action that can be held in a freeze frame position.
- Choose one child to say each statement and do a simple action. These children form a straight line facing the audience.
- A leader introduces the story.
- The first child steps forward, repeats the statement two or three times (once is not enough for children to remember!) then freezes.
- The second child steps forward, repeats the statement and freezes.
- The process continues until the last child finishes.
- The leader concludes with a simple statement.

People required: Leader and Reader

Leader: One day Jesus was in the temple

Reader: In the temple

Chorus: **In the temple**

Leader: Watching people give gifts to God

Reader: Gifts to God

Chorus: **Gifts to God**

Leader: There were many rich people

Reader: With lots and lots of money

Chorus: **With lots and lots of money**

Leader: They gave a lot!

Reader: A lot!

Chorus: **A lot!**

Leader: But they also had a lot left over!



Reader: Heaps left over!

Chorus: **Heaps left over:**

Leader: And then there was a widow

Reader: A very poor widow

Chorus: **A very poor widow**

Leader: She had little money,

Reader: Very, very little money!

Chorus: **Very, very little money!**

Leader: She gave all she had ...

Reader; And had NOTHING left

Chorus: **And had NOTHING left.**

Leader: Who do you think gave the most? The rich people ...

Reader: Who were still rich!

Chorus: **Who were still rich!**

Leader: Or the poor widow ...

Reader: Who was still poor!

Chorus: **Who was still poor!**

Leader: Who gave the most?

Reader: Who gave the most?

Chorus: **Who gave the most?**



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.