



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *2nd Sunday of Advent - Year C*

*Violet*

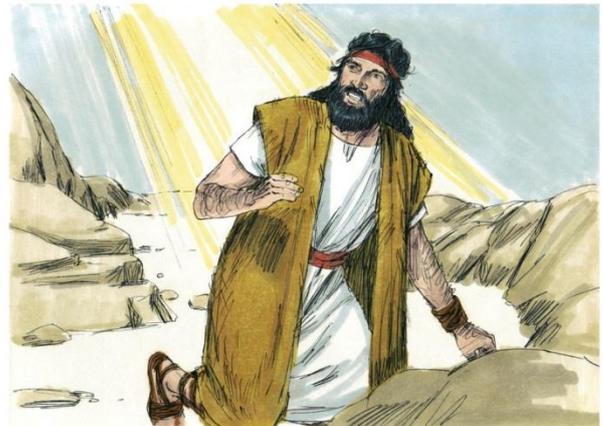
### *'Turn back to God'*

Baruch 5:1-5, 7 Psalm 126 Philippians 1:4-6 Luke 3:1, 2-6

*God sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of his Son, Jesus.*

*John was filled with the Holy Spirit, and had the courage to stand before the crowds and preach to them. He told the people of Israel to turn back to God and ask for forgiveness for their sins so they were ready to listen to the words of Jesus when he came.*

*Today we are asked to do the same thing.*



### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Second Sunday of Advent, 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*

Luke 3:1, 2-6

For fifteen years Emperor Tiberius had ruled that part of the world, and Annas and Caiaphas were the Jewish high priests. At that time God spoke to Zechariah's son John, who was living in the desert.

So John went along the Jordan Valley, telling the people, "Turn back to God and be baptised! Then your sins will be forgiven."

Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said, "In the desert someone is shouting, 'Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him! Fill up every valley and level every mountain and hill. Straighten the crooked paths and smooth out the rough roads. Then everyone will see the saving power of God.'"

## FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-5, 7

Jerusalem, exchange your robes of sorrow and suffering for those glorious garments God has given you forever. Dress in the saving power of the eternal God, and wear his glory like a crown on your head.

God will show everyone on earth how wonderful you are. And he has forever given you this name: "Justice Leads to Peace, Obeying God Brings Honour."

Jerusalem, climb to the peaks of the highest mountains and see your people coming from the east and the west, at the command of God. They are celebrating because they have been remembered by the Holy One.

God has commanded every tall and ancient mountain to be levelled to the ground and every valley filled in. Then Israel will safely walk in the glory of God.

## PSALM

Psalm 126

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

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

In foreign nations it was said, "The Lord has worked miracles for his people."  
And so we celebrated because the Lord had indeed worked miracles for us

## SECOND READING

Philippians 1:4-6

Brothers and sisters: whenever I mention you in my prayers, it makes me happy. This is because you have taken part with me in spreading the good news from the first day you heard about it. God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns.



*Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)*  
© Archdiocese of Chicago LTP. 1994      Used with permission

## *Background to the Readings for Leaders*

The Church sees John the Baptist as the last prophet of Israel who looked and yearned for the coming Messiah. John prepares the people for the coming of the Lord and announces him, and his spirit of expectation as displayed in today's Gospel is contagious. John lived in the desert, rejecting the prevailing culture of the day and instead proclaimed the possibility of freedom and holiness. Like a competent MC, John has stirred the people up into a storm of fervour and high expectation – the whole community, tax collectors, soldiers, everyone – putting their lives in order in a fizz of anticipation and preparation. The baptism he offered was a plunging into water to signify a person's repentance of sin. When asked what people had to do in response to his preaching, he advocated not praying and fasting but changing the way they treated others. His call was compelling – he called others into the desert, to leave the things that amuse and distract them, and come to meet the One who can satisfy them.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *Justice leads to peace*
- *Obeying God brings honour*
- *Deepening our faith, love and gratitude for each other*
- *Preparing for God*
- *Straightening the crooked, smoothing the rough*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

We too are being called by John to examine our ways, change our lives, and live as people who have been saved. As seekers of God we are to live justly and at peace with others according to our own calling. We should be people of joy, and that joy should be obvious to all. We must be people of prayer and thanksgiving, asking God for all our needs; people of confident and expectant faith. How, in our own circumstances, can we live justly and with integrity?

Who are the people you have met who have inspired or challenged you to be a better person? The spirituality of the desert still has a place in the Church today. Leaving the things that amuse and distract us to spend time with God is the basis of having a retreat. In what ways can you make a 'desert place' in your day to day life?

What might John suggest to you if you were to ask him "What then should I do?" Resolve to do something simple and concrete this week and do it.

## *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*

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:  
*Violet cloth, Lectionary, a candle,  
sandals and a walking stick and the Advent Wreath*



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent -Year C

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, fill us with your Spirit so that we may be brave enough to choose the right way no matter what others say and think.

**R** **Amen.**

*First Reading: Baruch 5:1-5, 7*

*(if used)*

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

**Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

*Psalm 126*

**Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy**  
*(or another suitable response known by the children)*

*Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6*

*(if used)*

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

**Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**



Advent: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Make a straight path for the Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the hope for the world.

### Gospel: Luke 3:1, 2-6

**Minister of the Word:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke  
**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 each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. Then begin a general discussion, building on these responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.*

Dramatising with an adult dressed in hessian and carrying a stick might be an effective way to make John's message more real to the children.

- How do you think John the Baptist felt about his job? How did he go about preparing the way for the Messiah?
- When the people asked him what they were to do, what did he say to them? (He told the people that they had to change their ways – his message was of sharing, non-violence and simplicity)
- What can children do?
- What do we use water for? What did John do with water? (John baptised people with water when they were truly sorry, as a sign that they wanted to wash away their sin and begin a new life)

**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 join hands around the focus as you light the first two purple of the Advent wreath, praying:

“If we keep our eyes on the light,  
we need never feel afraid.  
Jesus will walk before us, guiding us through life  
towards the kingdom of heaven. Amen.”

Children respond,  
“Come, Lord Jesus, Come”



## *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 Īnoinga 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 our loving God for all our needs.

- For all God's family, that we may share the Good News with everyone.  
Let us pray to the Lord  
**Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those who govern us, that they will show justice and mercy to all  
Let us pray to the Lord
- **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For people everywhere who are suffering  
Let us pray to the Lord
- **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will live lives of service to others  
Let us pray to the Lord  
**Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** Saving God, shower your blessings and protection upon 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.



Come, Lord Jesus

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, ©Catholic Diocese of Auckland

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C

## Liquid Pictures

Luke 3:1-6

John preaches in the desert

**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.

**Leader:** There was a man named John who lived in the desert and told everyone how they should live ...

Change your ways. Change, change, change!

Forgive one another. Forgive, forgive, forgive!

Be baptised. Baptised, baptised, baptised!

The Spirit teaches us to forgive!

Help one another. Help, help, help!

Love like Jesus does, Love, love, love!



**Leader:** Many people listened and were baptised by John!

From 'Just Imagine 2, More Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, [www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au](http://www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au). Available from the Liturgy Centre.