



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Green

'The Wedding Feast at Cana'

Isaiah 62:1-3 Psalm 96 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 John 2:1-12



*Jesus performed his first miracle by changing
the water into wine.*

*Most of the people at the wedding did not know
what had happened,*

*but the disciples and the servants
saw the amazing power that Jesus had.*

*Mary had seen the problem
and had turned to Jesus for help.*

We too must be ready to care about others.

Leader's Preparation

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

John 2:1-12

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was at a wedding feast in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited and were there.

When the wine was all gone, Mary said to Jesus, "They don't have any more wine."

Jesus replied, "Mother, my time has not yet come! You must not tell me what to do."



Mary then said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do"



At the feast there were six stone water jars that were used by the people for washing themselves in the way that their religion said they

must. Each jar held about twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus told the servants to fill them to the top with water. Then after the jars had been filled, he said,

"Now take some water and give it to the man in charge of the feast."

The servants did as Jesus told them, and the man in charge drank some of the water that had now turned into wine. He did not know where the wine had come from, but the servants did. He called the bridegroom over and said, "The best wine is always served first. Then after the guests have had plenty, the other wine is served. But you have kept the best until last!" This was Jesus' first miracle, and he did it in the village of Cana in Galilee. There Jesus showed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. After this, he went with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples to the town of Capernaum, where they stayed for a few days.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-3

Jerusalem, I will speak up for your good. I will never be silent till you are safe and secure, sparkling like a flame. Your great victory will be seen by every nation and king, and the Lord will give you a new name. You will be a glorious crown and a royal headband in the hands of the Lord your God.

PSALM

Psalm 96

Response: **Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations**

Sing a new song to the Lord!

Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the Lord, sing and praise his name. **R**

Day after day announce, "The Lord has saved us!" Tell every nation on earth, "The Lord is wonderful and does marvellous things!" **R**

Tell everyone of every nation,

"Praise the glorious power of the Lord. "He is wonderful! Praise him! **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Brothers and sisters: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others. Some of us can speak with wisdom, while others can speak with knowledge, but these gifts come from the same Spirit.

To others the Spirit has given great faith or the power to heal the sick or the power to work mighty miracles.

Some of us are prophets, and some of us recognise when God's Spirit is present. Others can speak different kinds of languages, and still others can tell what these languages mean.

But it is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

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

All three readings today have the theme of marriage and union, particularly between God and the chosen people. This relationship between God, the land, and the people of Israel is woven into words by Isaiah in the first reading. The second reading speaks of the union of gifts given by the Spirit to serve others, and the Gospel records the first public miracle that Jesus performs as his mother draws his attention to the problem at the wedding feast. A wedding, the most intimate celebration of human love and commitment, is a worthy setting for this first miracle, as it symbolises the self-giving love of Christ for the Church. In Jewish culture both water and wine are essential elements in marriage celebrations: water for purification and preparation, and wine for happy fulfilment. This was the first time the disciples were given a glimpse of Jesus' power and glory – the indication that he was no ordinary rabbi. The lives of these disciple witnesses are forever transformed.

Images from the Readings

- *A new name*
- *Share the joy*
- *Different spiritual gifts*
- *Six empty water jars*
- *The best wine*

Reflection for Leaders

As in a human marriage the relationship of the chosen people with their God is often stormy – it suffers the ups and downs of any human relationship. But it is enduring because once God has given a pledge it is forever. This story at the beginning of the public life of Jesus mirrors the banquet of eternal life. The glory of God in Jesus makes all things new – Jesus can and does change things. The durability of God's love in a changing world is appealing. While human love can be fickle, the unearned and unchanging dependability of God's love is characteristic. Just as Mary placed the whole situation into Jesus' hands, we are called to do this in our own lives. Are you able to do this?

The fact that you are listening to the words of Jesus means that he is inviting you to belief in him. How do you respond? Where in your own life do you sense that you are 'running out of wine'? What can replace it? How do you respond to other people's expectations of you? What are the personal gifts that you bring to service? Make an opportunity this week to offer hospitality to someone in need.



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:

Green cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a wedding photo, and a jug of water.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

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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, we thank you for the gifts you have given each of us. Help us in the first days of this new year to begin again and bring your love to those around us. Let us serve with gladness.

R Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-3

(if used)

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

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalm 96

Response: Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations

or Alleluia!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

(if used)

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

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua



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: John 2:1-12

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John
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 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.*

- The people in this photo are getting married. A wedding is a very happy occasion – it is a time to celebrate and rejoice with eating and drinking. Has anyone been to a wedding? What happens? Who is there?
- Who is at the wedding in the Gospel today? How would the people have felt if the wine at the wedding in Cana had run out?
- Mary noticed that there was a problem. What did she do? She turned to Jesus, and even when he didn't seem to be keen to help, she told the servants to do whatever he told them to do.
- We need to be like Mary - we need to notice and be concerned about others, and then turn to Jesus with complete trust.
Who knew about this miracle? This was the first time the disciples saw the power that Jesus had.
- Why do you think Jesus performed this miracle?
Jesus always responds to those who trust in him – even if it is in unexpected ways.

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*

Teach the children the 'Glory Be' prayer:

“Glory be to the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen”



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 Inoinga 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: We know that God loves us, so let us pray for others and for ourselves.

- For the Church, that we may welcome everyone to share the Good News
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all those who are different, on the outside, or who feel lonely
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer

or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That we begin this new year by helping someone who needs us
Let us pray to the Lord **R** Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For ourselves and our families, that we will care for all God's creation
Let us pray to the Lord **R** Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of love and peace. Hear the prayers that we make to you through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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



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Echo Mime

John 2:1-12

The Wedding Feast at Cana

Note to Leaders:

This echo mime makes use of a creative technique referred to as 'Sound Effects'. At various points of the story, a sign indicating either a **sound effect** or a **word/phrase** is held up and read by all children. As well as a leader, there would also need to be another child whose sole job is to hold up the signs at the appropriate time. Ensure signs are large enough for all children to read easily.

Leader's signs: YEAH; UH-OH, YUMMY

Children's signs: CANA; DO WHAT JESUS SAYS; WATER

A reading from God's Word

Hands open as in reading a book

This is a story

Hands from mouth to person

About a wedding

Point to (imaginary) ring on finger

In the village of Cana

Children's sign: CANA

Jesus was there

Draw a large "J" in the air

And his mother Mary

Draw a large "M" in the air

And his disciples

Point to all the other children

They were all having a good time

Leader's sign: YEAH!

Until

Leader's sign: UH-OH!

The wine ran out

Action as in holding an empty glass upside down

And no one knew what to do

Shake head

Except

Point one finger in the air

Mary!

Draw a large "M" in the air

She said to the servants

Cup hands around mouth

'Do just what Jesus says'

Children's sign: DO WHAT JESUS SAYS

And they did

Nod head (Yes)

**They filled 6 big jars
With water
And gave them to their boss
'Yum, yum', said the boss
'This is the best wine ever'.
And this was the very first miracle
That Jesus did.
A reading from God's word**

Hold up six fingers
Children's sign: WATER
Point to the Leader
Leader's sign: YUMMY
Thumbs up
Hold up one finger
Leader's sign: YEAH!
Hands open as in reading a book



From 'Just Imagine 3, Even more Creative ways of presenting Scripture...' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.