



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

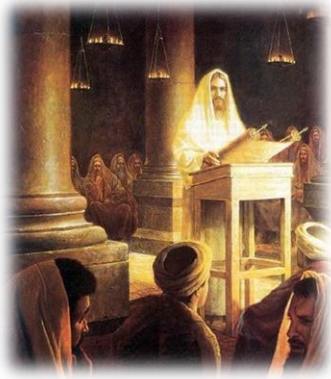
Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Green

'The greatest is love'

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17, 18-19 Psalm 711 Corinthians 13:4-8, 11-13...Luke 4:10-24, 28-30



Jesus was well known to many of the people in the crowd the day that he announced that he would fulfil Isaiah's prophecy. Why did the crowd become upset when Jesus told them this? How would Jesus have felt at their reaction? Jesus brought the message of God's love to all people, and we need to be ready to do this too.

Leader's Preparation

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

Luke 4:10-24, 28-30

Everyone in the Jewish meeting place looked straight at Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "What you have just heard me read has come true today." All the people started talking about Jesus and were amazed at the wonderful things he said. They kept on asking, "Isn't he Joseph's son?" Jesus answered: "You will certainly want to tell me this saying, 'Doctor, first make yourself well.' You will tell me to do the same things here in my own hometown that you heard I did in Capernaum. But you can be sure that no prophets are liked by the people of their own hometown."

When the people in the meeting place heard Jesus say this, they became so angry that they got up and threw him out of town. They dragged him to the edge of the cliff on which the town was built, because they wanted to throw him down from there. But Jesus slipped through the crowd and got away.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

The Lord said to Jeremiah, “Before I gave you life and before you were born, I chose you to be a prophet to the nations. “Jeremiah, get ready! Go and tell those people everything I command you. Don’t be afraid of them. “Today my power will make you as strong as a fortress or a tall column of iron or a wall of bronze. You will be against everyone in Judah, its kings, leaders, priests, and all the common people. They will fight against you, but they won’t win, because I will be with you to protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken.”

PSALM

Psalm 71

Response: **I will sing your Salvation**

I run to you, Lord, for protection. Don’t disappoint me.

You do what is right, so come to my rescue. Listen to my prayer and keep me safe. **R**

Be my mighty rock, the place where I can always run for protection.

Save me by your command! **R**

You are my mighty rock and my fortress. I depend on you. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 11-13

Brothers and sisters: Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud or rude. Love isn’t selfish or quick tempered. It doesn’t keep a record of wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting. Love never fails!

When we were children, we thought and reasoned as children do. But when we grew up, we quit our childish ways. Now all we can see of God is like a cloudy picture in a mirror. Later we will see him face to face. We don’t know everything, but then we will, just as God completely understands us. For now there are faith, hope and love. But of these three, the greatest is love.

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

Both Jeremiah and Jesus have been commissioned by God to be prophets and messengers. They both speak about tearing down the old ways to prepare for the new. For people who are inflexible this new way comes as a threat, and reception of their message is met with anger and opposition. The Gospel today continues the story from last week where Jesus announces to his hometown his mission of bringing hope to the hopeless. The people do not welcome his message; their initial approval quickly turns into rejection and this leads to physical violence, which eventually finds full expression in Jerusalem at the crucifixion. This event marks the first of many rejections that Jesus experiences. But rejection doesn't deter Jesus from his mission. He simply slips away and leaves Nazareth to search for others to call to a new way of life – he never returns.

Images from the Readings

- Before I gave you life I chose you
- I will be with you
- The greatest is love
- Joseph's son
- Hometown rejection

Reflection for Leaders

Have you ever had your ideas or opinions publicly ridiculed? Rejection is one of the most painful experiences that we can suffer. Rejection from those we expect to be supportive is doubly wounding. This is the scenario that faces Jesus, yet he is not daunted in his resolve. He slips away from the violence of his former neighbours. How do we react when what we say is not what people want to hear, and we have to face their anger? Do we hold our ground? The message Jesus came to give is for today and for all. But some of his teachings are not easy to live with – they mean change for many people, especially those who are comfortable and complacent. Do we let public pressure prevent us from sharing the Christian message with everyone?

Have we been in a situation where we observed someone else experience rejection and humiliation?

Are there things within you that are in need of healing?

Are you challenged by social justice issues in the world today? In what practical ways are you responding to these?

In what ways does your faith community work to bring hope to the hopeless? Perhaps during this week you might reach out to someone who is marginalized or in need of healing.



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, and a candle



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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, you have blessed us with all the gifts and talents we have. May we serve you with every part of our beings and share your love with others .

R Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

(if used)

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

Psalm 71

Response: I will sing your Salvation
or Alleluia!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 11-13

(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
Asus⁴
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: Luke 4:10-24, 28-30

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 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.

- Do you know what a prophet is? (a person who clearly understood what God wanted and reminded people to be faithful to God)
 People don't always want to listen to a prophet because their message challenges people and makes them uncomfortable.
- How did the people react to Jesus' message? What did they do?
- Why did the people not accept Jesus?
- Have you ever felt rejected by people? How would Jesus have felt when his hometown people rejected him?
- Was the message he brought hard to do?
- Is this message different for us today than it was for the people of his hometown all that long time ago?
- What happens when we fail to live the way Jesus taught us?
- Who do you know who brings 'good news' to others? Write a list and place it by the prayer focus.
- Who or what helps you keep trying?

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 Rītenga Karakia

Invite the children to pray
for the people they have named who bring good news to others.



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: Let us bring all our needs in confidence to our loving and merciful God:

- For the Church, that the love of God will flow from it in practical ways
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That governments around the world will rule with justice and mercy, especially those where oppression is now active. Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all families that they be places of safety, love and nurturing
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That people will be open to seeing God in unexpected places
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Loving God, look with favour on 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.

