



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

*Green*

*'You believed the message'*

Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11 Luke 5:1-11



*Because of the crowds, Jesus climbed into Simon's boat to teach. Later he told Peter to go out deeper and put his nets into the sea. Why did Peter not think this was a good idea? Despite being tired and disappointed he trusted Jesus enough to do as Jesus asked. Did Peter and his friends manage to catch any fish that day? How would they have felt? What would this have told them about Jesus? What did they do when Jesus invited them to follow him?*

### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Fifth 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 5: 1-11

Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, teaching the people as they crowded around him to hear God's message. Near the shore he saw two boats left there by some fishermen who had gone to wash their nets. Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon and asked him to row it out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat to teach the crowd. When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon, 'Row the boat out into the deep water and let your nets down to catch some fish.' "Master," Simon answered, "we have worked hard all night long and have not caught a thing. But if you tell me to, I will let the nets down."

They did it and caught so many fish that their nets began ripping apart. Then they signalled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. The men came, and together they

filled the two boats so full that they both began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this happen, he kneeled down in front of Jesus and said, "Lord, don't come near me! I am a sinner." Peter and everyone with him were completely surprised at all the fish they had caught. His partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were surprised too. Jesus told Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you will bring in people instead of fish." The men pulled their boats up on the shore. Then they left everything and went with Jesus

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I had a vision of the Lord. He was on his throne high above and his robe filled the temple. Flaming creatures with six wings each were flying over him and shouted to each other, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord All-Powerful! The earth is filled with your glory." As they shouted, the door of the temple shook, and the temple was filled with smoke. Then I cried out, "I'm doomed! Everything I say is sinful, and everyone around me is sinful too. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord All-Powerful."

One of the flaming creatures flew over to me with a burning coal that it had taken from the altar with a pair of metal tongs. It touched my lips with the hot coal and said, "This has touched your lips. Your sins are forgiven, and you are no longer guilty." After this, I heard the Lord ask, "Is there anyone I can send? Will someone go for us?" I replied, "Here I am! Send me."

## PSALM

Psalms 138

Response: **In the sight of angels, I will sing your praises Lord**

With all my heart and in the presence of angels I sing your praises.

I worship at your holy temple. **R**

All kings on this earth have heard your promises, Lord, and they will praise you.

You are so famous that they will sing about the things you have done. **R**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11

Brothers and sisters: I told you the most important part of the message, and you believed it. That part is: Christ died for our sins, as the Scriptures say. He was buried, and three days later he was raised to life, as the Scriptures say. Christ appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After this, he appeared to more than five hundred other followers. Most of them are still alive, but some have died. He also appeared to James, and then to all of the apostles. Finally, he appeared to me, even though I am like someone who was born at the wrong time. But it doesn't matter if I preached or if they preached. All of you believed the message just the same.

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

In today's readings the question is asked of both Isaiah and Simon, "Who will go for me?" When called, coming face to face with God, both Isaiah and Simon Peter see themselves as never before. They were afraid. But they were told to have courage; that they were not to fear. Both went.

It is likely that Jesus already knew Simon, since he had cured his mother-in-law previously. Jesus had spent time in Capernaum, preaching and healing the sick. The large crowd who had followed him had also witnessed these things. Despite his misgivings, Simon's compliance results in a supernatural catch of fish. Simon Peter's response is to confess his sinfulness and to address Jesus as 'Lord'. It is after this response that Jesus reveals the mission of the disciple. Several of Simon Peter's companions also accept Jesus' call.

The images in the readings are symbolic – that of the Church as a boat (the barque of Peter), and as a net (in which Christ catches his followers in order to give them life). The huge haul of fish is symbolic of the overabundance of blessing, which is promised to those who believe in and follow Jesus. It signals the abundance of the messianic banquet, which Jesus brings. Lake Gennesaret and the Sea of Tiberias are other names for the Sea of Galilee. This event probably took place on the north-west corner of the lake, near the village of Capernaum, where Simon Peter lived.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *Holy, holy, holy Lord*
- *Send me*
- *You believed the message*
- *Row out into the deep*
- *They left everything and went with Jesus*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

Spend some time reflecting on what 'putting out into the deep' may have meant for Simon Peter and his companions. Just as Jesus asked Simon Peter to take a risk by going back out into deep water, so he asks us to take a risk for him too. Our deep water may be way over our heads. Jesus asks us to have faith in him. Courage and boldness are what we require to answer 'yes' to the call to be Christian today. What is our response to the call of God to leave everything and follow him? Are there ways in which you are already sharing in the task of being a 'fisher' of people? In what ways are you being asked to put out into deep water today?

## *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 deep bowl of water, and a fishing net*



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## *Fifth 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 call each one of us to follow you. Give us the courage to respond and bring others to know and follow you too.

**R** Amen.

### *First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8*

(if used)

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

### *Psalms 138*

**Response:** In the sight of angels, I will sing your praises Lord  
or Alleluia!

### *Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 11*

(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: Luke 5:1-11

**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.*

- Have you ever been fishing? Simon Peter was a fisherman. He worked on a boat, catching fish in a net in the lake of Galilee. Do you think it is hard work fishing? How would the fishermen have felt after they had been fishing all night and returned to shore in the morning without catching even one fish?
- Why do you think Simon Peter tried again when Jesus told him to row back out into deep water and put his nets down again?
- What did it mean when they caught so many fish that their nets began to rip apart?
- What did Jesus mean when Jesus told him that from now on he would be bringing in people instead of fish?
- We know that Jesus came so that all people can know and love God. Just as he called Simon Peter to follow him, Jesus wants us to help him in his mission. How can we do this?

**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*

You might invite the children to sing a familiar song, such as 'The Galilee Song' or 'Here I am, Lord' today.



## *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: In confidence let us bring all our needs to our loving God:

- For the Church, that she brings God's message to the world  
Let us pray to the Lord  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That leaders everywhere will hear the message of Jesus, believe in God's mercy and show mercy themselves  
Let us pray to the Lord  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all those whom God has called, that they have the courage to leave everything and go where God sends them  
Let us pray to the Lord  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That people who are marginalised and rejected will find welcome  
Let us pray to the Lord  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God, giver of our gifts, hear the prayers we your children make to you through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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



# Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

## Chorus play

Luke 5:1-11

Calling all disciples

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

**People required:**     **Reader 1 and Reader 2**

Reader 1:     Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret.

**Chorus:**     **You mean the Sea of Galilee?**

Reader 2:     And the crowds had gathered around him.

**Chorus:**     **Why!**

Reader 1:     To hear God's message.

**Chorus:**     **That's good!**

Reader 1:     It was getting a little crowded

Reader 2:     So Jesus got into Simon's boat and sat down.

**Chorus:**     **Good old Simon to the rescue!**

Reader 1:     When Jesus had finished teaching the crowds,

Reader 2:     He told Simon to row out into the deep.

**Chorus:**     **Into the deep, Simon – be careful!**

Reader 1:     And put down his nets

Reader 2:     To catch some fish!

**Chorus:**     **You're in the deep Simon – be careful!**

Reader 1:     Simon and the boys had been out fishing all night,

Reader 2:     And they hadn't caught ONE fish!

**Chorus:**     **Listen boys, do as Jesus tells you.**

Reader 1:     But they agreed to have another go.

**Chorus:**     **You never, never know unless you have a go.**



Reader 2: They caught so many fish!

**Chorus: Lots and lots of fish!**

Reader 1: They caught so many fish that their nets started to rip.

Reader 2: And they called for help from the other fishermen!

**Chorus: S.O.S**

Reader 1: And soon two boats were full of fish.

Reader 2: And when Simon saw this, he became ...

**Chorus: AFRAID!**

Reader 1: Such power!

**Chorus: How amazing!**

Reader 2: Don't be afraid! You too can be this powerful.

**Chorus: How ?**

Reader 1: From now on, you'll be catching people, not fish.

Reader 2: And they left their fishing boats and followed Jesus.

**Chorus: Calling all disciples! Come follow me!**

**I will follow Jesus**



*From 'Just Imagine 3, Even 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.*