



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

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

*Green*

*‘What a person says comes from what is in the heart.’*

Sirach 27:6-7 Psalm 92 Luke 6:39-45



*In the Gospel today Jesus reminds us that just as we can recognise a peach tree because of the fruit that grows on it, people will recognise us as followers of Jesus by the way we live our lives, by the things we say and the things we do.*

### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Eighth 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 6:39-45

Jesus used some sayings as he spoke to the people. He said: “Can one blind person lead another blind person? Won’t they both fall into a ditch?”

“Are students better than their teacher? But when they are fully trained, they will be like their teacher.

“You can see the speck in your friend’s eye. But you don’t notice the log in your own eye. How can you say, ‘My friend, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you don’t see the log in your own eye? you showoffs! First, get the log out of your own eye. Then you can see how to take the speck out of your friend’s eye.

“A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces. You cannot pick figs or grapes from thorn bushes. Good people do good things because of the good in their hearts. Bad people do bad things because of the evil in their hearts. Your words show what is in your hearts.”

You know what a tree is like by its fruit. You know what people are like by their words. Words are a true test of character. So never praise anyone before they speak.

## PSALM

Response: **Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

It is wonderful to be grateful and to sing your praises, Lord Most High!

It is wonderful each morning to tell about your love

and at night to announce how faithful you are. **R**

Good people will prosper like palm trees,

and they will grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon.

They will take root in your house Lord God,

and they will do well. **R**

**No Second Reading in the Lectionary for Masses with Children today.**

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

### *Background to the Readings for Leaders*

The three readings this week speak of what it is to be and to act as a true disciple of Jesus at the very core of one's being, and as a member of the community. We learnt that a true disciple is someone without duplicity, whose speech is pure, who is clear sighted, humble, and acts in imitation of his/her master, Jesus Christ. A true disciple is a person of integrity.

The Gospel this week is bound up with this issue of discipleship but can be divided into three distinct sections dealing with different aspects of this topic. The first section Luke 6:39-41 deals with those who guide others, exhorting them to honesty and humility. Verses 41 and 42 then move directly on to dealing with relations among members of the community, and is a clear continuation of the message of last week's Gospel not to judge. The third section beginning at verse 43 explains how a true disciple can be recognised, and clearly proclaims that the source of all words and deeds can be found in the condition of one's heart.

### *Images from the Readings*

- *Words, the true test of character*
- *Blind leading the blind*
- *Good tree produces good fruit*
- *Your words show what is in your hearts*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

If it is the heart that determines the fruit that a person bears, it is with the heart we must listen, meditate and treasure the Word of God. Lectio Divina is an ancient form of prayer with the scriptures that helps us do just that. Below is a short outline of how to practice Lectio Divina. During this week take this Gospel or another favourite piece of scripture and meditate on it using the method below.

- 1. Read the scripture slowly.** Watch for a key phrase or word that jumps out at you or promises to have special meaning for you. It is better to dwell profoundly on one word or phrase than to skim the surface of several chapters. Read with your own life and choices in mind.
- 2. Reflect on a word or phrase.** Let the special word or phrase that you discovered in the first phase sink into your heart. Bring mind, will and emotions to the task. Be like Mary, Jesus' mother, who heard of the angel's announcement and "treasured" and "pondered" what she had heard (Luke 2:19).
- 3. Respond to what you have read.** Form a prayer that expresses your response to the idea, then "pray it back to God." What you have read is woven through what you tell God.
- 4. Rest in God's Word.** Let the text soak into your deepest being, savouring an encounter with God and truth. When ready, move toward the moment in which you ask God to show you how to live out what you have experienced.

## *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, two pieces of fruit, one healthy and fresh, the other spotty and diseased.*



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## *Eighth 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 show us great love. Help us to show the world your love by our actions and our words.

**R** Amen.

### *First Reading: Sirach 27:6-7*

(if used)

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

### *Psalm 92*

**Response:** Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.  
**or** Alleluia!

**No Second Reading today.**

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 6:39-45*

**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.*

- Show the children the two pieces of fruit, ask them why they think one looks healthy and good to eat, and the other one diseased and not good for eating. Encourage the children to think about the plants that each of the fruit came from - the healthy plant no doubt came from a tree that was well looked after, watered, fed and pruned. The other piece of fruit likely came from a tree that was left to itself and received very little care. Help the children make the connection with the Gospel - the tree that was watered, fed and pruned produced good fruit - in what ways can we be watered, fed and pruned in our faith so that we produce good fruit? (drink from (read) the Word of God, be fed by the Eucharist, allow God to prune us by admitting our faults in Reconciliation and trying hard not to do wrong again)
- Ask children to think of what kind of “fruit” someone who is “watered, fed and pruned” might bear. (eg. kindness, patience, self control)

**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 pray the Prayer of St Francis:



### *Prayer of Peace*

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is error, the truth;  
Where there is doubt, the faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled, as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

## 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: As God's children, we are fed by the teaching that Jesus gave us. We now turn to God for what we need and pray together

- For the leaders of the Church who care for us and help us to bear good fruit Let us pray to the Lord

R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For those who suffer because of fighting or division in their countries, communities or families Let us pray to the Lord

R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For all Christians, that we may take time to feed and nourish our faith Let us pray to the Lord

R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For those who are ill or dying 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, help us always to find nourishment in your word and in the sacraments, so that we can shine your light to the world. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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



# *Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

## *Chorus play*

Luke 6: 39-45

Get Real!

**Note to leaders:** Chorus Plays present Scriptural stories in the form of a play with both individual characters and a chorus. The chorus aspect allows for the whole group participation. One of the aims of Chorus Plays is to provide not only a presentation of the story but also – and more importantly – an informed interpretation of it. There are many excellent sources of references available today to assist interpretation, especially Biblical commentaries.

- Jesus:** Now here are some things to think about:
- Reader 1:** If you're blind, can you show another blind person the way?
- Chorus:** Pray for knowledge so that all may see and understand.
- Reader 2:** If you're a student, can you know far more than your teacher?
- Chorus:** Pray for knowledge so that all may see and understand.
- Reader 3:** If you have a log in your eye, should you complain about the person who has a speck of dust in her / his eye?
- Chorus:** Get real! Sort yourself out first before criticising others.
- Reader 1:** A good tree produces good fruit;
- Reader 2:** And a bad tree produces bad fruit!
- Reader 3:** You can tell a tree by its fruit.
- Chorus:** Be fruitful and produce only good fruit!
- Reader 1:** Good people try to do good deeds.
- Reader 2:** Some bad people like to do bad deeds.
- Reader 3:** Words and deeds say it all.
- Chorus:** Be fruitful and produce only good fruit!

*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.*