



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 Lent - Year C

Violet

The 'Transfiguration'

Philippians 3:20-4:1 Psalm 147 Luke 9:28-36



Jesus took his friends Peter, James and John up a steep mountain where they could be alone to pray. As he prayed to God, Jesus appeared to change – his face and clothes shone brilliantly like the sun and dazzled his friends. These rays of light were a glimpse of God's glory and power. What did this show the disciples?

Why is light so important to us?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Second Sunday of Lent, 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 9:28-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James with him and went up on a mountain to pray. While he was praying, his face changed, and his clothes became shining white. Suddenly Moses and Elijah were there speaking with him. They appeared in heavenly glory and talked about all that Jesus' death in Jerusalem would mean.

Peter and the other two disciples had been sound asleep. All at once they woke up and saw how glorious Jesus was. They also saw the two men who were with him.

Moses and Elijah were about to leave, when Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” But Peter did not know what he was talking about.

While Peter was still speaking, a shadow from a cloud passed over them, and they were frightened as the cloud covered them. From the cloud a voice spoke, “This is my chosen Son. Listen to what he says!”

After the voice had spoken, Peter, John and James saw only Jesus. For some time they kept quiet and did not say anything about what they had seen.

FIRST READING

Philippians 3:20-4:1

Brothers and sisters:

We are citizens of heaven and we are eagerly waiting for our Saviour to come from there.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has power over everything, and he will make these poor bodies of ours like his own glorious body. Dear friends, I love you and long to see you. Please keep on being faithful to the Lord. You are my pride and joy.

PSALM

Psalm 147

Response: Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord

Shout praises to the Lord!

Our God is kind, and it is right and good to sing praises to him.

He renews our hopes and heals our bodies.

He decided how many stars there would be in the sky and gave each one a name. **R.**

Our Lord is great and powerful! He understands everything.

Celebrate and sing! Play your harps for the Lord our God. **R.**

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

The event described in the Gospel reading today is traditionally known as ‘the transfiguration’. Although the place it occurred is not mentioned in Scripture, it has long been associated with Mt Tabor in Galilee. The white robes and changed appearance of Jesus represented his glory and divinity, and this is what was being revealed to his most trusted disciples on this day. The cloud both symbolises the presence of God, and also conceals it, thereby protecting the witnesses from the full force of God’s glory. In the same way Moses also had to be carefully shielded from seeing God’s face in Exodus 24:15.

Mountaintop experiences with God were well understood by the people of the day. The reference to Moses and Elijah links Jesus with two of the greatest people in Israel’s history, both

of whom had encounters with God on mountains. The meeting was a private experience for Jesus, as the disciples were asleep whilst it took place. Like Jesus, both these holy men lived lives for God and suffered rejection by their people. However the voice from the cloud, the hidden presence of God, reveals Jesus' divine identity and encourages the disciples to listen to him. All that the Law (represented by Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) stood for will be accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Images from the Readings

- *Eagerly awaiting the Saviour*
- *Clothes became shining white*
- *They saw his glory*
- *From the cloud a voice spoke*
- *Listen to what he says*

Reflection for Leaders

This Second Sunday of Lent celebrates ways that God's divine presence is revealed. Sometimes, like Peter, we can misunderstand our revelations. We have a need to withdraw at times for prayer and contemplation, yet it is not possible for us as Christians to remain forever on the mountain; we must come down and continue our journey. We are called to live our lives knowing that we are firstly citizens of heaven. We leave the place of worship to start again on the road of everyday life with all its cares and concerns, but to carry with it the hope that is only possible through faith.

This week let us ponder on just how we are able to listen to Jesus in today's world? How important is it to have times of quiet contemplation in our journeys? What priority do you place on providing for this? What relevance do the sacraments have for you? In what ways do you balance prayer and action in living your faith in everyday life? Spend some extra time this week listening to Jesus through Scripture and prayer. What is he saying to you?

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, a white cloth – to symbolise Jesus' clothes becoming 'shining white'



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, fill us with the light of your love and goodness. Help us to be a light to touch the lives of others.

R Amen.

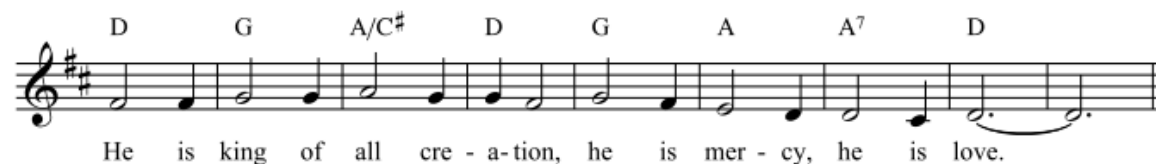
First Reading: Philippians 3:20-4:1

(if used)

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

Psalms 147

Response: **Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord**
(or another suitable response known by the children)



Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

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.*

- Why did Jesus go up the mountain?
- What happened while he was praying?
- Why is light important to us? What did the light shining from Jesus' clothes and face show Peter, John and James?
- Who did Peter, John and James see with Jesus?
- What did Peter want to do?
- What was the message that they heard from God?
- What things show us that God is around? (nature, people, Scripture, etc)
- How do we hear Jesus? How do we come closer to God?

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

Explain to the children that we need to be still and quiet to hear God speak to us.
We often have times of silence in the Mass.

Include a short time of silence in your act of worship this week.

Invite the children to close their eyes and silently pray asking Jesus to help them listen carefully to him.



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 to our loving God.

- For the Church, that we may share the Good News with everyone
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will delight in the presence of God
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the people of our country will care about the sick and lonely in our communities
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 follow the example of Jesus and make time to pray and listen
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of transformations, fill us with delight in your presence and grant what we need. Through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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



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Liquid Picture

Luke 9:28-36

The 'Transfiguration'

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: Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and set off...

Up the mountain!

A special place – a sacred place!

Look at Jesus! Wow!

There's Moses the Law-giver! Wow!

And Elijah the great prophet! Wow!

God said, 'This is My Son'.

This is God's Son! Listen to Jesus!



Leader: Listen to Jesus! Listen and follow!

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