



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

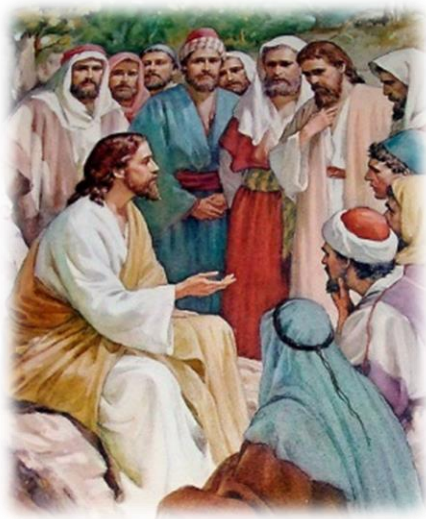
Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C

White

'The gift of peace'

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 Psalm 67 John 14:23-29



*Before he died, Jesus told his followers
not to be worried or afraid, because the Holy Spirit would be
sent to them and they would receive his gift peace.*

*Have you ever experienced a feeling
of deep peace?*

Living like Jesus brings us peace.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, 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 14:23-29

Jesus said: "If anyone loves me, they will obey me. Then my Father will love them, and we will come to them and live in them. But anyone who doesn't love me won't obey me. What they have heard me say doesn't really come from me, but from the Father who sent me. I have told you these things while I am still with you. But the Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you. I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world can give. So don't be worried or afraid. You have already heard me say that I am going and that I will also come back to you. If you really love me, you should be glad that I am going back to the Father, because he is greater than I am. I am telling you this

before I leave, so that when it does happen, you will have faith in me. I cannot speak with you much longer, because the ruler of this world is coming. But he has no power over me. I obey my Father, so that everyone in the world might know that I love him. It is time for us to go now.”

FIRST READING

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

With the help of the Spirit, the angel took me to the top of a very high mountain. There he showed me the holy city of Jerusalem coming down from God in heaven.

The glory of God made the city bright. It was dazzling and crystal clear like a precious jasper stone. The city had a high and thick wall with twelve gates, and each one of them was guarded by an angel. On each of the gates was written the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Three of these gates were on the east, three were on the north, three more were on the south, and the other three were on the west. The city was built on twelve foundation stones. On each of the stones was written the name of one of the Lamb’s twelve apostles.

I did not see a temple there. The Lord God All-Powerful and the Lamb were its temple. And the city did not need the sun or the moon. The glory of God was shining on it, and the Lamb was its light.

PSALM

Psalm 67

Response: O God, let all the nations praise you!

Our God, be kind and bless us!
Be pleased and smile.
Then everyone on earth will learn to follow you,
And all nations will see your power to save us. **R**

Let the nations celebrate with joyful songs,
Because you judge fairly and guide all nations. **R**

Make everyone praise you and shout your praises.
Pray for his blessings to continue
And for everyone on earth to worship our God. **R**

The Lectionary for Masses with Children omits today’s First Reading from Acts and gives the (Second) reading from Revelation as the First Reading. This resource matches the Children’s Lectionary.

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

Today's Gospel is taken from Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper and is dominated by his coming departure. The final gift that Jesus leaves for his disciples is the gift of peace 'a peace that the world cannot give.' Sometimes we mistake this peace for our idea of quietness or tranquillity, but the peace the Jesus gives is a peace that can be found even in the midst of turmoil, as Jesus illustrated in the days following this discourse at the Last Supper.

Shalom is the Hebrew word for peace found frequently in the bible. Our English word 'peace' doesn't adequately capture all that Shalom means. Shalom conveys a sense of completeness, an idea that nothing is lacking, Shalom is perfect wellbeing – perfect communion with God. This deep peace is a peace that we all desire, a peace that prevails even in times of stress and tension. How do we obtain this peace? Not by ordering our lives better, having a great diary system, looking after ourselves, or going for a massage. In the Gospel today Jesus tells us that this peace comes from God alone, it is God's gift to us. If we are in relationship with God, if we are in union with God, then we will be blessed with the gift of peace, and as Jesus was able to offer this gift of peace to others because he possessed it, so also can we extend this gift to those around us, if we first receive this gift from God.

Images from the Readings

- Obey me
- Holy Spirit will come and help you
- The Spirit will teach you
- I give you peace
- Don't be worried or afraid

Reflection for Leaders

In the midst of our fast paced world it is easy to neglect our time with God. What prayer routines do you have in your life at this time? Do you give enough time to prayer each day? Would you like to make more time for prayer? How could you rearrange your schedule to find more time?

Often in our times of prayer we are tempted to do all the talking, our prayer time can become very 'active.' The gift of peace, along with all the gifts of the Spirit, are just that, gifts. We cannot earn them or obtain them. What are the ways of prayer that you find most helpful in allowing you to be open to receive the gifts God has for you?

This week try a new type of prayer, perhaps meditating in front of an icon, joining in on a time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, or meditating on a passage of scripture (lectio divina). Try to refrain from too much 'active' prayer, but instead sit silently with the Lord with an attitude of openness, listen to what he has to say to you, allow him to bless you with the gifts he has for you.

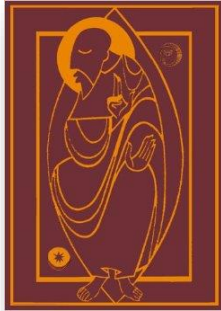
Reflecting on the Readings with the children

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:



White cloth, Lectionary, a candle,
a picture depicting the Holy Spirit as a dove



LITURGY OUTLINE

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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 sent the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with your love and peace. Help us to bring that love and peace to the world.

R Amen.

First Reading: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

(if used) The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalms 67

Response: O God, let all the nations praise you !

(or another suitable response known by the children)

D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ A

Easter: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Je - sus is ri - sen from death._____

Bm G D A G A D

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the light of the world.

Gospel: John 14:23-29

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 Whakāaro

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, to stimulate ideas:

- Jesus gave his followers the gift of peace. Do you know what peace is? (quietness, calmness, not having trouble)
- The peace that Jesus gave to his followers was special. What was special about it? (It came from being filled with the Holy Spirit, this peace is better than a feeling we might try to make ourselves feel)
- Jesus offers this peace to anybody who decides to follow him. How do we come to know this peace? (Pray)
- When is a good time during the day to spend some peaceful time with God? (Encourage the children to share times that are peaceful in their day)
- Why is it important to make time to spend peacefully with God?

When we spend time quietly with God, without distractions and noise, we can speak to him and listen to what he is saying in our hearts. Then we will know that special peace that Jesus offers to us, we will be filled with the spirit of 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'

Discussion Points

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Sing together,

'Let there be peace on earth', or 'The Prayer of St Francis'
or another hymn known to the children that speaks of sharing God's peace.



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 Īnoīnga 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 come to you, O God, encouraged by your word, and bring to you all our needs.

- For the leaders of the Church, that they may always carry out their work in a spirit of love. Lord hear us

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

- For peace throughout the world, and an end to war. Lord hear us

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

- For all those who are sick or suffering that they may know the peace of Christ. Lord hear us.

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

- That we might have hearts full of love, so that we can show Jesus to all we meet. Lord hear us.

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

Leader: God of love, bless us and all those we pray for, and help us to spread your message of peace this Easter season. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

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

