



Liturgy of the Word with Children

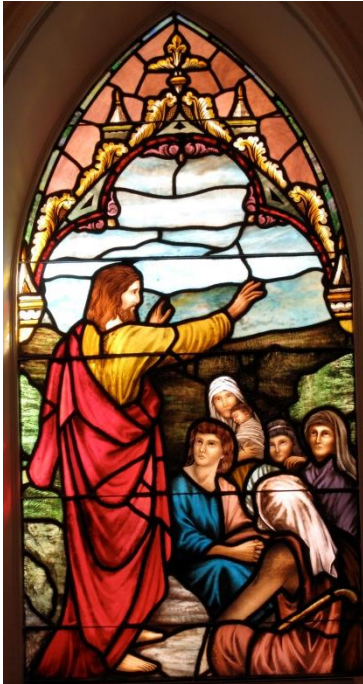
Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

'A large crop, few workers'

Green



Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66 Luke 10:1-9

Jesus knew that he would need help to take the message of God's love to people throughout the world. He prepared his disciples to be sent out to prepare the people for him to come into their lives. If you were being sent on a journey by Jesus, what things do you think you might need? What did Jesus tell the disciples to take? Jesus wanted them to share the love and peace of God through their actions and words rather than taking a lot of belongings. As followers of Jesus, what is Jesus asking us to take to the people we meet today?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Fourteenth 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 10:1-9

The Lord chose seventy-two other followers and sent them out two by two to every town and village where he was about to go.

He said to them: "A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in. Now go, but remember, I am sending you like lambs into a pack of wolves. Don't take along a money bag or a travelling bag or sandals. And don't waste time greeting people on the road.

"As soon as you enter a home, say, 'God bless this home with peace.'

If the people living there are peace-loving, your prayer for peace will bless them. But if they are not peace-loving, your prayer will return to you.

“Stay with the same family, eating and drinking whatever they give you, because workers are worth what they earn. Don’t move around from house to house.

“If the people of a town welcome you, eat whatever they offer you. Heal their sick and say, ‘God’s kingdom will soon be here!’ ”

FIRST READING

Isaiah 66:10-14

If you love Jerusalem, be glad and celebrate. If you were in sorrow because of the city, you can now rejoice. She will nurse and comfort you, just like your own mother, until you are satisfied. And you will fully enjoy her wonderful glory.

The Lord has promised, “I will flood Jerusalem with the wealth of nations and make the city prosper. Jerusalem will nurse you at her breast, carry you in her arms, and hold you in her lap. I will comfort you there like a mother comforting her child.

“When you see this happen, you will celebrate. And your strength will return faster than grass can sprout. Then everyone will know the Lord is with you.”

PSALM

Psalms 66

Response:

Let all the earth cry out to God with Joy

or Alleluia!

Tell everyone on this earth to shout praises to God!

Sing about his glorious name.

Honour him with praises.

Say to God, “Everything you do is fearsome!” R

When God made the sea dry up, our people walked across,
and because of him we celebrated there.

His mighty power rules forever. R

All who worship God, come here and listen;

I will tell you everything God has done for me.

Let’s praise God!

He listened when I prayed, and he is always kind. R

Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)

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Background to the Readings for Leaders

The tender image of motherhood is utilised in the first reading to characterise the relationship between Jerusalem and her people, and this is a fitting metaphor for God's self-giving nature. God's abundant blessings are promised to Jerusalem as she is transformed and restored and God's people will rejoice.

In the Gospel today, the mission of the seventy-two is symbolic of the great commission which all Christians are called to: that of announcing the Gospel to others. It explores the manner of life lived by missionaries while on their mission. By comparing the mission to bringing in the harvest, Jesus is implying that the planting and nurturing have been successfully completed and all is ready for the ministry of the missionaries. However, the harvesting itself is a dangerous occupation, and the missionaries are as vulnerable as lambs among wolves. Jesus directs them to take only the bare essentials – travel light. They are to trust God and depend on the hospitality of those who welcome them in. Jesus has not waited until the disciples are fully formed to send them on this mission – they will learn on the job. The Jewish greeting of Peace! is transformed into a deeper meaning of salvation, to be accepted or rejected by those to whom it was given. Those open to the message were blessed.

Images from the Readings

- *Rejoice and celebrate*
- *God's mother-like comfort*
- *The sending out of seventy-two*
- *A large crop, few workers*
- *Travel light*
- *Blessing of peace*

Reflection for Leaders

The work of evangelisation is the main task of the Church, and each of us is responsible for this task. Do you feel ready and prepared to share this mission? As with the disciples, we need to learn on the job, and there are advantages and disadvantages to learning this way. What experiences of learning this way have you had? In what ways are you being drawn into active participation in the life and work of the church? Jesus directive for his disciples to travel light cuts hard at our materialistic lifestyle. What non-necessities can be pruned out of your life to simplify the task of taking up mission? We are to go to others offering peace - if accepted, peace is shared to the advantage of others. No matter what the response is of others we do not lose it ourselves. During this week respond to awkward or difficult situations with forgiveness and peace.

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

Green cloth, Lectionary, candle, a purse, a backpack, sandals



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Fourteenth 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 want all people to know how much you love them. Help us to understand your message, and to share it with others.

R Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14

(if used)

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

Psalms 66

Response:

Let all the earth cry out to God with Joy

or

Alleluia

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 10:1-9

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.

- If you had to go on a journey, what sort of things do you think you might need to take with you?
- Is it better to do jobs alone or with a friend?
- What did Jesus mean when he said that a large crop was in the fields but there were only a few workers?
- Jesus knew that he needed help to do the work that God had sent him to do, so he chose some trusted disciples to help prepare the people before he came. Why did he send them out in pairs? Why do you think he told them not to take a money bag or a travelling bag or sandals?
- Is it the same for us today - do you think that we need all the stuff that we have to share the good news with other people?
- How do you think the disciples felt as they travelled? What might they have talked about?

- What were the disciples to do when they came to a home that welcomed them?

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



with peace'.

Jesus shared his gift of peace with each one of us as a sign of his love.

Let us share a sign of peace with each other.

When we go home today we can say 'God bless this home



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: With confidence and faith we bring all our needs to our compassionate God:

- For the Church - Pope Francis, bishops, priests and lay people – who work towards bringing the good news to all ... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the gift of peace in our homes, our schools, our friendships and our community ... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a right attitude towards possessions, and a desire to live with simplicity, trusting God for what we need ... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the gift of hospitality and generosity ... 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, bless your children and hear the prayers we make to you through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

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 chose many other followers and sent them out in pairs, to preach the Good News:

The harvest is great but the workers are few!

Don't delay! Get busy!

Bless everyone you meet!

Heal the sick and do good!

The Kingdom is here. Here and now!

Leader: Whether you believe it or not, God's Kingdom is here.



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