



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

'Be humble'

Green

Sirach 3: 17-18, 20 Psalm 119 Luke 14:1, 7-14



Have you ever rushed to get the best seat before someone else? Jesus understands us, and wants us to realise that when we do this we think we are more important than other people. What does Jesus tell us to do instead? When we do something nice for other people who can't repay us, God will reward us. How can we practice doing what Jesus teaches us?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty Second 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 14:1, 7-14

One Sabbath Jesus was having dinner in the home of an important Pharisee, and everyone was carefully watching Jesus.

Jesus saw how the guests had tried to take the best seats. So he told them: "When you are invited to a wedding feast, don't sit in the best place. Someone more important may have been invited. Then the one who invited you will come and say, 'Give your place to this other guest!' You will be embarrassed and will have to sit in the worst place.

"When you are invited to be a guest, go and sit in the worst place. Then the one who invited you may come and say, 'My friend, take a better seat!' You will then be honoured in front of all the other guests. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured."

Then Jesus said to the man who had invited him: "When you give a dinner or a banquet, don't invite your friends and family and relatives and rich neighbours. If you do, they will invite you

in return, and you will be paid back. When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. They cannot pay you back. But God will bless you and reward you when his people rise from death.”

FIRST READING

Sirach 3: 17-18, 20

My child, always be humble, and all of God’s people will love you. The more important you are, the more humble you should be. This will please the Lord. The Lord has great power, and it is praised by those who are humble.

PSALM

Psalm 119

Response: **God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor**

Our God, let your people be happy and celebrate because of you.

Our God, you are the one and we praise you.

Your name is the Lord, and we celebrate as we worship you. **R**

Our God, from your sacred home you take care of orphans and protect widows.

You find families for those who are lonely.

You set prisoners free and let them prosper. **R**

When your land was thirsty, you sent showers to refresh it.

Your people settled there, and you were generous to everyone in need. **R**

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

The overarching theme for today is generosity in giving, particularly in the invitation to share a meal that celebrates community. Meals are always significant in human interaction and celebration. In Jesus' day, society was structured along fairly strong hierarchical lines, and people were very sensitive to their place and treatment in society. Jesus upset many people by sharing meals with those considered inappropriate companions, and this story encouraging them to invite those people whom society had forgotten would have been quite outrageous. Only the humble can receive graciously the gifts of God, so the idea that we 'repay' is a very human response. These readings call us to become humble receivers who can therefore give generously in the same manner. Again, the wedding feast is used as a traditional image of the kingdom of God.

Images from the Readings

- *The best place*
- *Embarrassed*
- *Honoured in front of others*
- *Invite the poor*
- *Be humble*

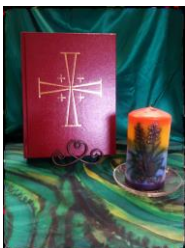
Reflection for Leaders

If you have never studied the social justice documents of the church, this is a good time to look at them. Just as Jesus challenged the people of his day with his reverse thinking, so our church challenges our society with specific statements that echo these themes today. Reflect this week on the way that your faith community welcomes those who are 'the least' in society? Is it a place where all are made to feel welcome or are some excluded from the Eucharist table? We almost have an inbuilt need to repay kindnesses done to us, sometimes missing the idea that being welcoming and hospitable is a very welcome gift for those who are on the 'outside' of our circle of friends. How do you usually repay the kindnesses done to you? During this week offer a meal to someone who would appreciate your company.

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 table place setting – placemat, knife, fork and spoon, serviette.*



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty Second 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: God of compassion, you care for those who are least in our world. Help us to be humble and care for others first.

R **Amen.**

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20

(if used)

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

Psalm 119

**Response: God, in your goodness,
you have made a home for the poor**

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 14:1, 7-14

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.

- Have you ever had a special celebration in your family? What was it? Who was invited and why?
- What do you think makes someone important?
- What does being humble mean?
- Why did Jesus talk about taking the best seats? (he saw the people doing this)
- Is he just talking about parties? What else might he mean?
- What is Jesus telling us to do instead?
- How do you feel when someone tries to push in ahead of you?
- What is Jesus saying to us today? (look out for others who are not popular and make sure they feel welcome. Think of others who don't have as much and share with 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*

Retell the Gospel in a simple 'liquid picture' drama:

Divide the story into five or six main sections. Select one or two short phrases for each section with a simple action for each. Choose a child for each section. Have these five or six children stand with their backs to the rest of the group. The leader makes a simple introduction to the story. The first child turns to face the group, repeats his/her phrase three times as they do the action, then freezes. The second child does likewise and the process continues until the last child. The leader concludes with a simple statement.



Finish with a short prayer for those with whom you share your meals.

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: We are gathered here to remember God's many blessings. Let us now place our prayers before God with confidence and trust:

- That the Church will always be a place where the least in our society find a welcome and place of honour...Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For an understanding of how much God loves us, that we don't need to push ourselves forward before other people...Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For humble hearts that always look to putting others first...Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a spirit of generosity when dealing with those who are less popular and less well-off than we are...Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Generous God, shower your blessing and protection upon us and those for whom we pray. We ask this through Our Lord

All: Amen

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

