



Liturgy of the Word with Children

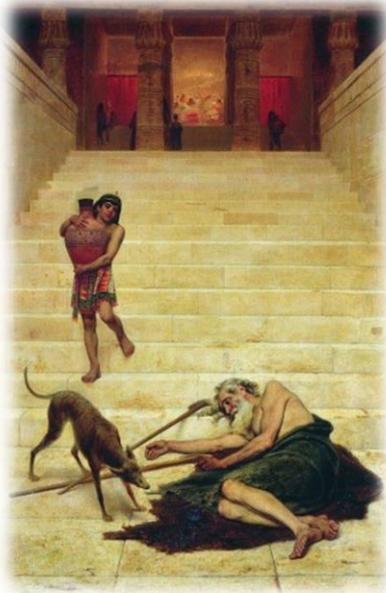
Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

'Teach me your ways'

Green



1 Timothy 6:11-12 Psalm 25 Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells us the story about the rich man who was so self-absorbed, that he did nothing to help Lazarus. What do you think the rich man could have done?

What do you think Jesus is saying to us with this story?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty Sixth 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 16:19-31

Jesus told his disciples this story:

"There was once a rich man who wore expensive clothes and every day ate the best food.

But a poor beggar named Lazarus was brought to the gate of the rich man's house. He was happy just to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.

"His body was covered with sores, and dogs kept coming up to lick them. The poor man died, and angels took him to the place of honour next to Abraham.

"The rich man also died and was buried. He went to hell and was suffering terribly. When he looked up and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side, he said to Abraham, 'Have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and touch my tongue. I'm suffering terribly in this fire.'

“Abraham answered, ‘My friend, remember that while you lived, you had everything good, and Lazarus had everything bad. Now he is happy, and you are in pain. And besides, there is a deep ditch between us, and no one from either side can cross over.’

“But the rich man said, ‘Abraham, then please send Lazarus to my father’s home. Let him warn my five brothers, so they won’t come to this horrible place.’

“Abraham answered, ‘Your brothers can read what Moses and the prophets wrote. They should pay attention to that.’

“Then the rich man said, ‘No, that’s not enough! If only someone from the dead would go to them, they would listen and turn to God.’

“So Abraham said, ‘If they won’t pay attention to Moses and the prophets, they won’t listen even to someone who comes back from the dead.’ ”

FIRST READING

1 Timothy 6:11-12

Try your best to please God and to be like him. Be faithful, loving, dependable, and gentle. Fight a good fight for the faith.

PSALM

Psalm 25

Response: **Teach me your ways, O Lord.**

Show me your paths and teach me to follow;
guide me by your truth and instruct me.
You keep me safe. **R**

Please, Lord, remember, you have always been patient and kind.
Show how truly kind you are and remember me. **R**

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

The first reading calls us to our responsibility to pursue right conduct in imitation of God’s virtues. In the Gospel, Jesus goes to great lengths to contrast the lives of the two men. In an unusual reversal of human nature it is only the poor man who is named – Lazarus means ‘my God helps’. Jesus casts no moral judgment on the rich man, who has not physically wronged Lazarus. He is just completely indifferent to his plight. Moses and the prophets taught the need for justice and mercy and traditionally there is a reciprocal responsibility that these men share through the covenant of Abraham, which particularly calls the wealthy to meet the needs of the poor. By ignoring and being indifferent to this responsibility, being blind to Lazarus’ obvious need, the rich man in his complacency was inattentive to this responsibility despite the

fact that by naming Lazarus when he asked Abraham to send him refreshing water indicates that he was not totally unaware of him. The call from the rich man to send warning to his brothers indicates that he is still only concerned with people like himself. The lack of attention for a resurrected Lazarus prefigures the same unwillingness by the complacent even to believe the message of the risen Christ.

Images from the Readings

- *Juxtaposition of abundance beside need*
- *Warn my brothers*
- *Read what the prophets wrote*
- *if they won't pay attention...*
- *teach me your ways*

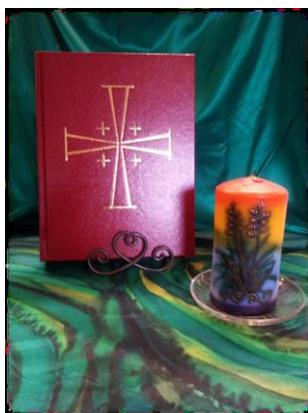
Reflection for Leaders

The wealth of the Church raises questions for many when considering scriptures like this one. From very early on people have been anxious to donate money towards the works of the Church: care of the sick, education, worship. The Church has traditionally been the provider of care, and the beauty of church buildings, belonging to the whole community, gives testimony to the desire of people to offer their best to God. Does the church have a legitimate right to property and money when there is such need in our world? Various media often put right before us images of people in desperate need, yet how do we choose to respond? What is it that makes people selfish and self-absorbed? Can you think of a time when you have not noticed the needs of another? How important is your comfort? This week keep your eyes open for someone in difficulty.



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.

LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty Sixth 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, giver of all that is good. Help us to see the needs of others and give us the courage and generosity to help them.

R Amen.

First Reading: 1 Timothy 6;11-12

(if used)

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

Psalms 25

Response: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

or **Alleluia**

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia



Invite the children to share a sign of peace with each other, but ask them to ensure that they really notice the person they are with, look into their face as they share a prayer of peace together.



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.

Teach me your ways

O Lord



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: Generous and loving God, help us to see you in the people we meet. We bring our needs to you in prayer:

- For all God's family, the Church, so that we may share the good news with everyone we meet ... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all, like Lazarus, who are hungry and sick and lonely ... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the people in our families, our schools, our community, that we have a heart for justice and concern for others ... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the poor in our society, that we learn to notice their need and be generous in our help ... Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of compassion, you have a special love for the poor and the sick. Hear the prayers that we make for ourselves and others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

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