



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

'Keep on praying'

Green



2 Timothy 4:1-2 Psalm 96 Luke 18:1-8

What do you call someone who gives up when things don't go right? Have you ever pestered someone when you really want something badly? What happened? In the story that Jesus tells us today, he is showing us that we should not give up when we pray. We need to be persistent in our prayers for what we need. Even when it seems that God is not answering or giving us what we want, we must trust God and not give up praying.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty Ninth 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 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a story about how they should keep on praying and never give up:

"In a town there was once a judge who didn't fear God or care about people. In that same town there was a widow who kept going to the judge and saying, 'Make sure that I get fair treatment in court.'

"For a while the judge refused to do anything. Finally, he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about people, I will help this widow because she keeps on bothering me. If I don't help her, she will wear me out.' "

The Lord said: "Think about what that crooked judge said. Won't God protect his chosen ones who pray to him day and night? Won't he be concerned for them? He will surely hurry and help them. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find on this earth anyone with faith?"

When Christ Jesus comes as king, he will be the judge of everyone, whether they are living or dead.

So with God and Christ as witnesses, I command you to preach God's message. Do it willingly, even if it is not the popular thing to do.

You must correct people and point out their sins. But also cheer them up, and when you instruct them, always be patient.

Response: **Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations**

Sing a new song to the Lord!
Everyone on this earth,
sing praises to the Lord, sing and praise his name. **R**

Day after day announce, "The Lord has saved us!"
Tell every nation on earth,
"The Lord is wonderful and does marvellous things!" **R**

The Lord is great and deserves our greatest praise!
He is the only God worthy of our worship.
Other nations worship idols, but the Lord created the heavens. **R**

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

Faithfulness in carrying out responsibilities and persistence are the common themes of the readings today. Jesus often used the image of widows and orphans to represent the most defenceless and needy members of society. Without their traditional means of support they were the most dependent on the charity of others. The widow in the parable would have been unusual in that day for having to speak up for herself in looking for justice, which implies that she must have been quite alone in the world with no male relative to intercede for her.

At the time this Gospel was written, the early church was suffering and its members were questioning whether God really did hear their prayers. Persistence in prayer is a sign of genuine commitment and a pre-requisite for a flourishing faith-life. Refusal to give in to discouragement in the face of difficulties and disappointments is an aspect of discipline in our lives, and the widow's persistence becomes a model of resoluteness for God's chosen ones who have to wait on God's timing. God will answer in God's time, and we are being asked to trust in God's concern for us. Perhaps what is really being asked here is not just 'will Jesus find anyone on

this earth with faith?’ so much as ‘will there be people who persevere in prayer?’ Jesus’ unanswered question begs his disciples to ponder the issue, and we can do no less today.

Images from the Readings

- *Keep on praying*
- *Never give up*
- *Persistence reaps rewards*
- *God’s protection for his chosen ones*
- *Instruct with patience*

Reflection for Leaders

Around the world at any given moment, there is Eucharist being celebrated, morning and evening prayers in churches and monasteries, individuals praying. Prayer is a regular part of the church’s life. Is this so with you? How do you pray? What are the things that make you ‘lose heart’ about prayer? Have you had an experience of waiting for something? Has there been any value or benefit in the waiting time for you? If you look at the things in your life that you persistently pay attention to, what does that show you about your commitments and priorities? Do you feel that you cannot put your needs before God in prayer? Why?

During this week make a particular effort to bring your needs before God with simplicity and persistence.

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 taper or tea-light candle for each child.*

LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty Ninth 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: Faithful God, you care for all your children with tender love. Help us to trust you more and never give up even when the going gets tough.

R Amen.

First Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-2

(if used)

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

Psalms 96

Response: Proclaim God's marvellous deeds to all the nations
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 18:1-8

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.

- Do you know what a widow is? (a woman whose husband is dead) Why do you think this widow needed fair treatment? (widows had no-one to bring in any income and so depended on other people's generosity to support them – no social welfare benefits in those days)
- What do you think about this woman? Do you think she might have ever got tired and wanted to give up?
- Why do you think she didn't?
- Is there anything you have ever given up on?
- If you had another chance would you try again?
- What do they call people who keep asking and asking for things that they want?
- How do you pray?
- What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us with this story?

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



Ask the children to think of something that is going on in the world, at home or school that they would like to pray for. Use their prayers as General Intercessions this week.

*Let them light a taper and say,
"Let us pray for _____ ; Lord hear us"*



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: God of faithfulness, having listened to your words we bring our needs to you in prayer:

- For our leaders in the Church and society, that they have a desire for justice in our world

...

Let us pray to the Lord

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

- For perseverance in prayer, even when we don't understand God's purposes ...

Let us pray to the Lord

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

- For persistence in not giving up what is right and good even when things don't seem to be going our way ...

Let us pray to the Lord

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

- For a deepening of the gift of faith ...

Let us pray to the Lord

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

Leader: God of justice, we know that you desire that we never lose heart or trust in your goodness. We bring these prayers to you in faith through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen**

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



*Keep
On
Praying ...*