



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

'Wonderful hope'

Green

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14 Psalm 17 Luke 20:27-38

In today's Gospel the Sadducees wanted to trick Jesus with a difficult question. They were a group of priests who held the most important positions in the Jewish synagogue. They disagreed with most of Jesus' teachings and were annoyed that so many people were listening to him and believing what he told them.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Thirty-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 20:27-38

The Sadducees did not believe that people would rise to life after death. So some of them came to Jesus and said:

“Teacher, Moses wrote that if a married man dies and has no children, his brother should marry the widow. Their first son would then be thought of as the son of the dead brother. There were once seven brothers. The first one married, but died without having any children. The second one married his brother's widow, and he also died without having any children. The same thing happened to the third one. Finally, all seven brothers married that woman and died without having any children. At last the woman died. When God raises people from death, whose wife will this woman be? All seven brothers had married her.”

Jesus answered, "The people in this world get married. But in the future world no one who is worthy to rise from death will either marry or die. They will be like the angels and will be God's children, because they have been raised to life.

"In the story about the burning bush, Moses clearly shows that people will live again. He said, 'The Lord is the God worshipped by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' So the Lord is not the God of the dead, but of the living. This means that anyone is alive as far as God is concerned."

FIRST READING

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

King Antiochus arrested seven Jewish brothers and their mother. He had them beaten with heavy whips and tried to make them eat the meat of pigs, which was against their religion. But one of them spoke up and said, "Why are you torturing us like this? We will die before we disobey the laws of our ancestors!" When the second brother was almost dead, he said to the king, "You're cruel! You can kill us, but the King of this world will raise us back to life. And then we will live forever, because we died, rather than disobey his laws." When he died, they started torturing the third brother. They told him, "Stick out your tongue!" Right away he stuck out his tongue and bravely stretched out his arms as well. He had a lot of courage and said, "God in heaven gave these to me. But I will give them up to obey his laws. I know that he will give them back." The king and all his troops were amazed at the young man's courage. Here was someone willing to suffer. After he was dead, the king's troops beat and tortured the fourth brother in the same way. But just before he died, he said, "We are willing for you to kill us, because God has promised to raise us to life. But you have no hope of being raised to life."

PSALM

Psalm 17

Response: **Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full**

I am innocent, Lord! Won't you listen as I pray and beg for help?

I am honest! Please hear my prayer. **R**

I have followed you without ever stumbling.

I pray to you, God, because you will help me.

Listen, and answer my prayer! **R**

Protect me as you would your very own eyes;

hide me in the shadow of your wings.

I am innocent, Lord, and I will see your face!

When I awake, all I want is to see you are you are. **R**

Brothers and sisters:

God our Father loves us. He is kind and has given us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope.

We pray that our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father will encourage you and will help you always to do and say the right thing.

Finally, our friends, please pray for us. This will help the message about the Lord to spread quickly, and others will respect it, just as you do. Pray that we may be kept safe from worthless and evil people. After all, not everyone has faith.

But the Lord can be trusted to make you strong and to protect you from harm. He has made us sure that you are obeying what we taught you and that you will keep on obeying. I pray that the Lord will guide you to be as loving as God and as patient as Christ.

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

The first reading detailing the grisly martyrdom of the Jewish brothers shows the intensity of their commitment to the law and their faith in the life to come. This reading might be difficult for some children, although the message of resurrection faith is the important link with the Gospel. The Sadducees were a group of conservative priestly Jews who held the highest positions in the synagogue. They held to the teachings of the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible) and rejected the idea of resurrection and eternal life. The hypothetical question they were asking Jesus about marital status in the afterlife was designed to embarrass him in front of his followers rather than being a sincere question expecting a genuine response. Jesus' answer turns the theological contest in a different direction – God is God of the living, not the dead; this implies that the ancestors are somehow still alive. Death does not sever the union that covenant forges. We are invited into the future with the question of resurrection and the way we are to live in anticipation of it.

Images from the Readings

- *Did not believe in eternal life*
- *Future world*
- *God of the living*
- *Prepared to die rather than sin*
- *Wonderful hope*

Reflection for Leaders

The end of the liturgical year is a time the Church traditionally remembers those who have died. Christians believe that death is not the end, and does not break the bonds forged in life. Christian funerals look back to baptism and forward to the resurrection. What experiences of the deaths of family members or friends have you had? What emotions or questions arise in you when you think of death, particularly your own death? Does your faith in Jesus Christ have a bearing on this? What hope does Jesus offer you in the Gospel today?

You can leave a record of the readings and hymns you would like at your funeral, and other details or decisions that might need to be known or dealt with by those left behind.

If there is someone in your own life who has died leaving unresolved conflict or hurt, there is an opportunity for you to resolve these through prayer. We can pray for anyone in the family of God, alive or dead.

What images do you have of the life of the world to come?

This week make a gesture of reconciliation towards someone.

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, two candles, cross or crucifix, small book to record the names of relatives or friends who have died.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Thirty-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: O God, you have chosen each one of us to be your children. Help us to open our hearts to your love so that we may have a sure hope in your promises.

R Amen.

First Reading: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

(if used)

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

Psalms 17

Response: Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full
or Alleluia

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:16 – 3:5

(if used)

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

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 20:27-38

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.

- Are there any questions that you have never found the answer to? (let children state their questions without answering them – maybe ask some of your own as well)
- There were some very clever men in Jesus' time who did not believe in eternal life with God. They were annoyed that the people were listening to and believing what Jesus was saying. So they asked him a trick question to catch him out. Have you ever been embarrassed in class when you haven't been able to answer a question?
- Jesus explained about death to them. He said that after we die our life with God is different from our life here, death doesn't separate us from God.
- Have you ever had someone you care about die? Do you miss them? If you had an opportunity, is there anything you would like to say to them?
- Today in our act of worship we will pray for 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*



Get children to record the name(s) of those family and friends who have died, in the book on the focus table.
Light a candle and say this prayer for them:

*“Loving God, we pray for our family and friends who have died.
We miss them, but know that they will be very happy with you.
May they rest in peace. Amen”*

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 the living, we have heard your words and now turn to you in faith with all our needs:

- For the Church, that we continues to have the courage to witness to the truth
...Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For thanksgiving for God’s gifts ...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 sure hope in God's promises ... Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all those who have lost someone close to them and are grieving, that they find comfort ... Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Eternal God, to you all people are alive. Console us with your truth and your comfort. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen**

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

