



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time* *Year C*

*'Do not be afraid'*

*Green*

Malachi 3:19-20 Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 Luke 21:5-19



*Jesus expects each of us to share his message with others. He gives us the Holy Spirit to give us strength, courage and wisdom so that we can do this. What does Jesus mean when he talks about the stones being knocked down? Jesus is talking about the end of time, but he tells us not to be afraid. He will remember our faithfulness and reward us at the end of time.*

### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Thirty-Third 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 21:5-19

Some people were talking about the beautiful stones used to build the temple and about the gifts that had been placed in it. Jesus said, "Do you see these stones? The time is coming when not one of them will be left in place. They will all be knocked down."

Some people asked, "Teacher, when will all this happen? How can we know when these things are about to take place?"

Jesus replied, "Don't be fooled by all those men who will come and claim to be me. They will say, 'I am Christ!' and 'Now is the time!' But don't follow them. When you hear about wars and riots, don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that is not the end.

“Nations will go to war against one another, and kingdoms will attack each other. There will be great earthquakes, and in many places people will starve to death and suffer terrible diseases. All sorts of frightening things will be seen in the sky.

“Before all this happens, you will be arrested and punished. You will be tried in the Jewish meeting places and put in jail. Because of me you will be placed on trial before kings and governors. But this will be your chance to tell about your faith.

“Don’t worry about what you will say to defend yourselves. I will give you the wisdom to know what to say. None of your enemies will be able to oppose you or to say that you are wrong.

“You will be betrayed by your own parents, brothers, family, and friends. Some of you will even be killed. Because of me you will be hated by everyone. But don’t worry! You will be saved by being faithful to me.”

## *FIRST READING*

Malachi 3:19-20

The Lord says this: “That day will surely come! It will be like a red-hot furnace, and its flames will burn up proud and evil people, as though they were straw. The Lord All-Powerful has promised that not a branch or root will be left.

“But if you honour my name, justice will shine like the sun, and its rays will bring healing.”

## *PSALM*

Psalms 98

Response: **The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice**

Make music for him on harps. Play beautiful melodies!  
Sound the trumpets and horns and celebrate with joyful  
songs for our Lord and King! **R**

Command the ocean to roar with all of its creatures,  
and the earth to shout with all of its people.  
Order the rivers to clap their hands, and all of the hills to sing together. **R**

Let them worship the Lord!  
He is coming to judge everyone on the earth,  
and he will be honest and fair. **R**

## *SECOND READING*

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Brothers and sisters:

You surely know that you should follow our example. We didn’t waste our time loafing, and we didn’t accept food from anyone without paying for it. We didn’t want to be a burden to any of you, so night and day we worked as hard as we could

We had the right not to work, but we wanted to set an example for you. We also gave you the rule that if you don't work, you don't eat.

Now we learn that some of you just loaf around and won't do any work, except the work of a busybody. So, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, we ask and beg these people to settle down and start working for a living.

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

This gospel was written after the destruction of the Temple in AD70. At this time the early Christians were being forced to leave the synagogues, and would have been very anxious about what lay ahead for them. There were amazing reports at this time of ordinary people, fishermen and other workmen, who were preaching with great power. Despite not being educated in theology, philosophy or rhetoric, they were speaking with irresistible wisdom and eloquence.

Many people over the years have made specific predictions about the end of the world. Jesus warns that they are not to be trusted. Today's gospel uses symbolic 'apocalyptic' language to describe the end of time. This language is not meant to be taken literally but to express the insight that life is characterised by struggle and conflict. It models a way of coming to terms with the powerlessness, suffering and death which are an inevitable part of our existence but which were especially apparent during the persecution of the early church. In our struggle to deal with the pressures and difficulties of life we can draw on the promise of Jesus and experience his peace.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *Beautiful stones knocked down*
- *Wars, riots, earthquakes, diseases*
- *Don't be afraid*
- *Saved by being faithful to Jesus*
- *Don't be a burden on others*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

Many times Jesus promises the gift of his peace to his faithful followers. This peace does not avoid challenge or conflict, or seek its own comfort, but responds to the demands of the gospel - endurance in faith and sharing the good news. Can you reflect on some of the upheavals in your life? Have there been times during which all you have been able to do is endure? What are the things that have supported you through times of struggle and difficulty? The gospel today calls us to a very specific response. In what ways have you begun to join in the building up of the Kingdom of God? Have you faced opposition over your faith? During this coming week be aware of being cheerful as you face the tedious tasks in your life with greater faith - particularly those things that you cannot change.

## *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 stone for each child ...



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Thirty-Third 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, we thank you for the gift of faith. Help us to share it with everyone we meet.

**R Amen.**

*First Reading: Malachi 3:19-20*

(if used)

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

*Psalms 98*

**Response:**  
or

**The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice**  
**Alleluia**


*Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12*

(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 Asus<sup>4</sup> 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 21:5-19

**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.

- Some things only last for a short time. Can you think about things that might only last for a day, or a week, or a year? What might last longer? Will anything last forever? What sort of things would you like to last forever? Have you ever wanted something to be over quickly?
- Jesus tells us today that no matter what happens to us we will never be abandoned. There is a special time that Jesus is talking about, do you know what it is called? (The time of his return in glory, the 'second coming', end times)
- Do we know when this will be? (No-one know the day or the hour) But Jesus expects us to live faithfully every day until that time comes.
- Is it easy to live faithfully like this when we are suffering?
- Do you know of anyone who lived faithfully in really difficult times? (Martyrs and saints) Why do we remember them? (Their example is an inspiration to us to follow)
- What things would you like to be remembered for?

**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*

*Invite each child to take a stone from the prayer focus to take home and remember how to be strong in hard times. Teach them the Serenity Prayer:*

"Lord give me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things that I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference."



### *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:** Having listened to God's word, let us confidently turn to God for what we need in the church and the community:

- For all God's family, the Church, so that we may cheerfully 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 the gift of endurance in all our sufferings...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, for patience and perseverance in living God's way every day ...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 discernment, to believe Jesus and not be afraid when people try to scare us with stories of the end of the world ...Let us pray to the Lord

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

**Leader:** God of all ages. May your kingdom come. Help us to be faithful always to the teachings of your Son. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen**

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



# **“Do not be afraid”**