



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green

“Come with me!” Isaiah 9:2-4, Psalm 27, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4:17-23

In today’s reading Jesus invites two brothers to follow him. Jesus asks them to leave their boats, nets, homes and families behind and come and be his disciples. Do the brothers go? Why do they do this? What would Zebedee think when this happened? Jesus wants us to follow him as well. How can we do this in our everyday lives? Is it easy to be kind and obedient, loving God more than everything else in our lives and encouraging others to do this as well?



Leader’s Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the 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

Matthew 4:17-23

Jesus started preaching, “Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will soon be here.”

While Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers. One was Simon, also known as Peter, and the other was Andrew. They were fishermen, and they were casting their net into the lake.

Jesus said to them, “Come with me! I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish.” Right then the two brothers dropped their nets and went with him.

Jesus walked on until he saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father, mending their nets. Jesus asked them to come with him too. Right away they left the boat and their father and went with Jesus.

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the Jewish meeting places and preaching the good news about God’s kingdom. He also healed every kind of disease and sickness.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-4

Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light. And it shines upon everyone who lives in the land of darkest shadows.

Our Lord, you have made your nation stronger. Because of you, its people are glad and celebrate like workers at harvest time or soldiers dividing what they have taken.

You have broken the power of those who oppressed and enslaved your people. You have rescued them as you did from Midian.

PSALM

Psalm 27

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

You, Lord, are the light that keeps me safe. I am not afraid of anyone.

You protect me, and I have no fears. **R**

I ask only one thing, Lord:

Let me live in your house every day of my life. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

My dear friends, as a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ, I beg you to get along with each other. Don't take sides. Always try to agree in what you think. Several people from Chloe's family have already reported to me that you keep arguing with each other. They have said that some of you claim to follow me, while others claim to follow Apollos or Peter or Christ.

Has Christ been divided up? Was I nailed to a cross for you? Were you baptised in my name? Christ did not send me to baptise. He sent me to tell the good news without using big words that would make the cross of Christ lose its power.

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

The Gospel announcing the beginning of Jesus' public ministry is read in the context of the prophecy of Isaiah, which foretells the coming of a bright light and the rescue of the oppressed and enslaved. As John the Baptist was silenced, the ministry of Jesus began to take off in earnest. Jesus carries on and expands the message of John, showing that this voice is not lost. It is a voice that calls people from their work to a new kind of work; it is a voice that teaches with authority; that heals diseases and sickness; and proclaims very good news. Galilee was an area to the north of Israel where both Jew and Gentile were present. Those who heard Jesus preaching among them needed to make a stand on whether they believed in him – those who did formed the first Christian communities who gathered together to pray and remember his teachings and the stories of his life and ministry. Around the time 60 – 100 AD these stories and teachings were written down as the basis for the New Testament: the four Gospels, an account of the early church (Acts), many of the letters of Paul and others to various communities and the book of Revelation (Apocalypse). Yet even in these early faith communities there were divisions and rivalries, as is shown in the second reading when Paul pleads for unity. In today's Gospel, Jesus calls four fishermen to form the basis of his own little community of special disciples, of whom the bishops of the church are successors.

Images from the Readings

- *Turn back to God!*
- *Come with me!*
- *Right away they left everything and went with Jesus*
- *A bright light has shone on everyone*
- *Get along with each other*

Reflection for Leaders

Jesus chose fishermen and told them that he would teach them how to bring in people instead of fish. They had to leave everything behind to follow him. Their new role was to catch people for Christ. How can we, as followers of Christ, do this? Preaching, teaching and healing comprised the ministry of Jesus, and it is this ministry that we are being asked to share. What exactly does the voice of Jesus call you to do and ask you to leave, to follow him? What makes leaving these things worthwhile? In what way do you most clearly hear the voice of Jesus in your experience? Be aware this week of the presence of Christ with you in all the mundane things of your daily life.

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'.

With both age groups you may also choose to use the 'Chorus Play' on page 8 to reinforce the Gospel message.

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:
Green cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a fishing rod or a net.



LEADER'S Liturgy Outline

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

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, help us to listen when you ask us to follow you; make us strong to walk with you each day and share your love with others that we meet.

R Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-4

(if used)

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

Psalms 27

(if used)

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17.

(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: Matthew 4:17-23

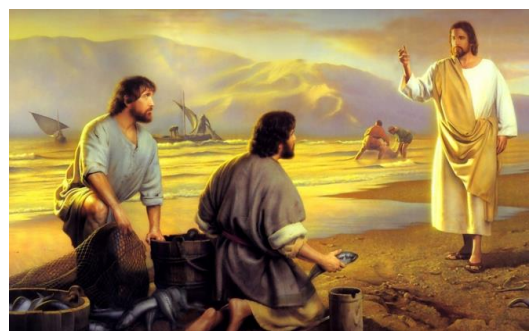
Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Children: **Glory to you, O Lord / Korōria ki ā koe, e te Ariki**

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 questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

- I wonder why we have a fishing rod (or net) here today? When Jesus met Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, what were they doing? (Fishing and mending nets) They were the very first people that Jesus called to follow him.
- Why do you think he chose fishermen rather than religious people to be his special friends?
- How would these fishermen have felt? They must have been excited because they dropped everything and went straight away.
- Do you think this was hard or easy for them? What do you think their father would have said when they did that?
- Have you ever met anyone that was so wonderful that you would like to take your Mum and Dad and go to be with them?
- Do you know that Jesus still calls people today? He has called you. He wants us to join him in his work, and we don't have to leave home. How do you think we can do this?



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

Both older and younger children come together for the liturgical action this week.

Invite the children to learn off by heart the first verse of today's psalm so that they can pray it when they are anxious:

*"You, Lord, are the light that keeps me safe.
I am not afraid of anyone.
You protect me, and I have no fears."*

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 Īnoīnga 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 God’s children who face life with hope. Let us pray to God in confidence:

- That the church will be a welcoming place for all who wish to turn back to God
Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the light of Christ’s presence will shine from us
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 and unity as we respond to the call of Jesus in our lives
Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all who are sick, that they find God’s comfort and presence through all who care for them
Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God who calls us by name, you understand our every need before we ask. Show your goodness to us and those for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen.**

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Chorus Play

Matthew 4:17-23

Note to leaders: The following **chorus** plays are appropriate to use with children and young people of **any age**.

People required: Reader, Chorus.

Leader: The response is, 'Come follow me.'

Chorus: 'Come follow me.'

Reader: Jesus said to the disciples,

Chorus: 'Come follow me.'

Reader: Jesus said to Simon Peter

Chorus: 'Come follow me.'

Reader: Jesus said to Andrew,

Chorus: 'Come follow me.'

Reader: Jesus said to James,

Chorus: 'Come follow me.'

Reader: Jesus said to John,

Chorus: 'Come follow me.'

Reader: Jesus says to us,

Chorus: 'Come follow me.'



From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.