



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green

**“Make peace!”** 1 Sirach 15:15-20, Psalm 119, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, Matthew 5:23-24

When Moses was leading God’s people through the desert, God gave them ten rules or commandments to help the people to live in God’s way. Today we hear Jesus remind his followers of these ‘rules for life’. We are reminded to come to Mass with peace in our hearts, with forgiveness for any person who has done wrong to us.



### Leader's Preparation

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

Matthew 5:23-24

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God.”



## FIRST READING

Sirach 15:15-20

If you really want to, you can faithfully obey the Lord's commands. The Lord gives you the choice between fire and water. Take the one you want. You can also choose between life and death. The one you want is yours. The Lord is very wise. He can do anything, and he sees everything. The Lord watches over everyone who respects him, and he knows everything that anyone does. The Lord did not command us to sin and do wrong.

## PSALM

Psalm 119

**Response:**                   **Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

Our LORD, you bless everyone who lives right and obeys your Law.

You bless all of those who follow your commands from deep in their hearts. **R**

You have ordered us always to obey your teachings;

I don't ever want to stray from your laws.**R**

Point out your rules to me, and I won't disobey even one of them.

Help me to understand your Law; I promise to obey it with all my heart. **R**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Brothers and sisters: We use wisdom when speaking to people who are mature in their faith. But it is not the wisdom of this world or of its rulers, who will soon disappear. We speak of God's hidden and mysterious wisdom that God decided to use for our glory long before the world began. The rulers of this world didn't know anything about this wisdom. If they had known about it, they would not have nailed the glorious Lord to a cross. But it is just as the Scriptures say, "What God has planned for people who love him is more than eyes have seen or ears have heard. It has never even entered our minds!" God's Spirit has shown you everything. His Spirit finds out everything, even what is deep in the mind of God.

*Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)*

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## Background to the Readings for Leaders

The book of Sirach from which this first reading is taken is a collection of proverbial teachings. The ancients believed that certain actions had within them the very seeds of their consequences: wise choices result in blessing, foolish or evil choices result in misfortune or punishment. The reading today addresses human freedom and human choice.

The longer we live the more we realize that life opens up for us a series of choices. These choices form the path that our life will take. Even in the most difficult of situations, we can still make choices about how we will deal with them. Obedient people do what they are told; wise people choose what good they will do.

In the Gospel, Jesus gives us an example of true wisdom. Choosing to serve people is to be preferred to serving the law. Jesus is not saying the law is wrong. Rather he brought the law to life when he gave it a new interpretation so it could meet the needs of the people of his day. Jesus is saying that true wisdom, which comes to us through the Holy Spirit, will help us

to see and to choose ways of being, doing and helping that will best meet the needs of the people in our lives. This is a very challenging way to live.

## *Images from the Readings*

- Fire and water
- Life and death
- Freedom of choice
- God has a plan
- Obey God

## *Reflection for Leaders*

God's decision to give us free choice is very challenging because we can choose evil as well as good. Jesus warns us not only to avoid the extremes of evil, like murder, but also to avoid the little steps, like anger, that can take us down the path in such a direction.

It is really difficult to deal with the kind of feelings that can lead to wrong doing. Leaving your gift at the altar because you are still angry and going back to sort out disagreements with your family is a very demanding challenge. What memories do you have of arguments and hassles as your family is getting ready to go to Mass, especially if you need to leave early because you are leading Children's Liturgy? How does this affect your readiness for ministry? For Eucharist? How do you reconcile or make peace?

## *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 'Liquid Picture' 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 list of the Ten Commandments.*



# *LEADER'S Liturgy Outline*

## *Sixth 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, you gave us laws, commandments, help us to follow them like your Son Jesus as we listen to your Word.

**R** Amen.

#### *First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20* (if used)

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

*Psalm 119* (if used)      **Response:** Happy are those who follow the law of the Lord!

#### *Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10* (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: Matthew 5:23-24*

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

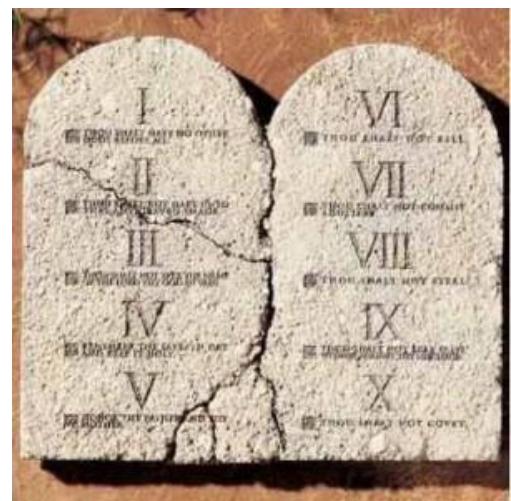
Children: **Glory to you, O Lord / Korōria ki ā koe, e te Ariki**

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.

- Who did God give the Ten Commandments to?
- What are those rules for? People were confused and uncertain about how to live in a way pleasing to God. So God gave them the Ten Commandments. What are these rules supposed to do for the people?
- What do rules make you do?
- Do people always listen to rules?
- Think about where you use rules in your life, (classroom, driving, law, church). The Ten Commandments were there to guide them and teach them how to show their love for him and each other. Moses wrote the Ten Commandments down on slabs of stone, but we should keep them written on our hearts. How can we do this? (by obeying laws, following rules) What happens when people don't follow rules?
- The importance of following rules is that they keep us from harm and encourage us to do the right thing. Are they always easy to obey?



Often they are not, but we should remember that the Commandments are the rules given by God to us to keep us from harm and help us to live the right way. If we do disobey he is forgiving and continues to love us regardless.

**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’. There may be time to use the ‘Liquid picture’ on page 8.

## *LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia*

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

*The children can open their arms out, as they ask God to ‘Fill our hearts with love Lord’*

May we forgive others	<b>Fill our hearts with your love Lord</b>
May we be kind to people	<b>Fill our hearts with your love Lord</b>
May we follow God’s law	<b>Fill our hearts with your love Lord</b>
May we come to Mass with peace in our hearts	<b>Fill our hearts with your love Lord</b>

## *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:** Offering our needs to our God who listens and delivers, let us pray:

- For the Church, that it continues to teach according to God's law  
Let us pray to the Lord                           **R**     **Lord hear our prayer**  
or    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the Holy Spirit to guide us, so that we can be obedient and do what is right  
Let us pray to the Lord                           **R**     **Lord hear our prayer**  
or    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we may learn to be better people and continue to do things the right way  
Let us pray to the Lord                           **R**     **Lord hear our prayer**  
or    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the leaders of our church, community and countries be positive role models of doing what is right and by using fair rules as a guide  
Let us pray to the Lord                           **R**     **Lord hear our prayer**  
or    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** God our Father, help us to keep your holy commandments and learn to be good followers of your Son Jesus Christ.

**All:**   **Amen.**

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

**Note to leaders:** The following **liquid picture** is appropriate to use with children and young people of **any age**.

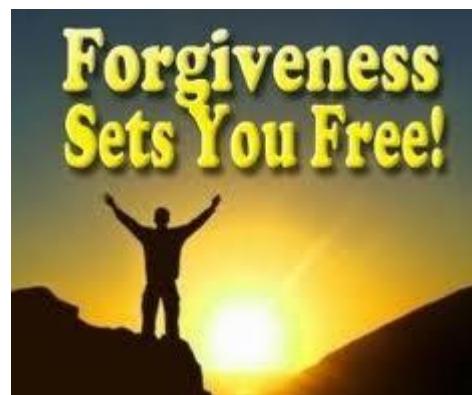
**How to do liquid pictures:**

Liquid Pictures is a form of drama which allows a story to be presented in a flowing or liquid manner. The process follows this pattern:

- Divide the story or Scriptural passage into five or six main statements.
- Accompany each statement with a simple action that can be held in a freeze frame position.
- Choose one child to say each statement and do a simple action. These children form a straight line facing the audience.
- A leader introduces the story.
- The first child steps forward, repeats the statement two or three times (once is not enough for children to remember!) then freezes.
- The second child steps forward, repeats the statement and freezes.
- The process continues until the last child finishes.
- The leader concludes with a simple statement.

**Leader:** Jesus said.....

Listen to me!  
Pray, pray, pray!  
Be a peace-maker!  
Forgive one another!  
Love one another!  
Praise God!



**Leader:** Jesus said, 'God loves a peace-maker!'

*From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, [www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au](http://www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au). Available from the Liturgy Centre.*