



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Second Sunday of Lent, Year A

Violet

Transformed through prayer Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 33, Matthew 17:1-9

Where do you pray? When Jesus wanted to pray he would often find a quiet, peaceful place away from the crowds, where he could be alone with his heavenly father. What place did Jesus take his friends to, to pray? What happened to Jesus when he prayed? We call this the 'Transfiguration.' Jesus was covered in God's glory, just as he would be in heaven, and God's approval for him was apparent. The disciples would remember this later when Jesus was put to death.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Second Sunday of Lent, starting with the Gospel. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted. The Second Reading is omitted in the Lectionary for Masses with Children.) Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

GOSPEL

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter and the brothers James and John with him. They went up on a very high mountain where they could be alone. There in front of the disciples Jesus was completely changed. His face was shining like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

All at once Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus. So Peter said to him, "Lord, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter was still speaking, the shadow of a bright cloud passed over them. From the cloud a voice said, "This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him. Listen to what he says!"

When the disciples heard the voice, they were so afraid that they fell flat on the ground. But Jesus came over and touched them. He said, "Get up and don't be afraid!"

When they opened their eyes, they saw only Jesus.

On their way down from the mountain, Jesus warned his disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Son of Man had been raised from death.

The Lord said to Abraham, "Leave your country, your family, and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you.

"I will bless you and make you into a great nation. You will become famous and be a blessing to others. I will bless the people who say good things about you, but I will put a curse on anyone who says evil things about you. Everyone on earth will be blessed because of you." So Abraham left, just as the Lord had told him to do.

Response:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The Lord is truthful; he can be trusted.

He loves justice and fairness, and he is kind to everyone

Everywhere on earth. **R**

We depend on you, Lord, to help and protect us.

Be kind and bless us! We depend on you. **R**

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

The Hebrew tradition doesn't offer a definitive view of the nature of God. Jesus' own intimate relationship with God offers a more comprehensive picture of God's own nature – forgiving, loving, healing, redeeming. The ancient stories, much like the parables of Jesus, call us to think very seriously about who God is. In today's gospel Jesus is beginning his journey towards Jerusalem and the fate that waits him there. But the start of that journey is delayed by this awesome moment of revelation that we know as the Transfiguration – the moment when Jesus is glorified and revealed as the beloved Son of God, Messiah.

This event is traditionally associated with Mt Tabor, and the voice from heaven echoed those words spoken at the baptism of Jesus. The appearance of Moses and Elijah links Jesus with the expectations the Jewish people. Moses, representing the Law, and Elijah, the prophets, looked forward to God's supreme intervention in human affairs (Jesus). The desire of the disciples to preserve the moment by building shelters was in contrast to Jesus' aim of continuing the journey to its final outcome. Following this completion, the significance of this vision would become apparent.



Images from the Readings

- Quiet time
- It is good for us to be here!
- Listen to him!
- Go on ... even when afraid

Reflection for Leaders

Last week we explored the temptations experienced by the very human nature of Jesus. Today's text explores the event of the Transfiguration, which affirms the dual nature of Jesus as both man and God. This duality of nature is often difficult for us to comprehend; however it is one of the foundational beliefs of the Church. We must not repeat the reluctance of the disciples to believe and understand. We already have the whole picture. Just as Jesus was revealed as the beloved Son of God, we too can take our place as beloved children of God. What glimpses of the glory of God do you see in your daily life? Can you recall an experience, which has revealed another person to you in a completely new light? Or, being able to see attributes in someone that you had previously been unaware of? During this week, try as a follower of Jesus, to respond to people with greater generosity, forgiveness, acceptance and love.

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

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:

Violet cloth, Lectionary, a candle, and an icon of Jesus



Transfiguration by Alexandr Ivanov, 1824

A larger image of the above is provided on page 9

LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Second Sunday of Lent, 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 showed the disciples the light of Jesus' glory. Help us to share that light with those we meet, so all will come to see your glory.

R Amen.

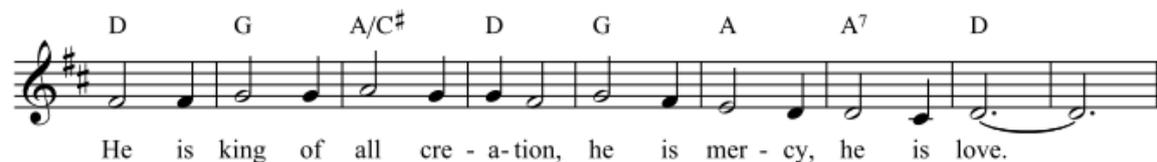
First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

(if used)

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

Psalm 33 (if used) **Response:**

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.



Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

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.

- Have you ever climbed a mountain? People often went up mountains to come close to God, and this is why Jesus took some of his special friends with him. Do you remember who went with Jesus to the mountain top? (Peter James and John)
- What amazing thing happened while they were there? (Jesus' glory was shown to them.) We call this the 'Transfiguration'
- Who did the disciples see talking with Jesus? (Moses and Elijah – they were important prophets in Jewish history, people who passed on messages from God to the Jewish people)
- Why did God show this vision to the disciples?
- What was the special message that God gave to these disciples? (Jesus was God's own dear Son and they should listen to him). This message was to help us to live as Christians today.
- The disciples were very afraid when they heard this voice. Do you remember how Jesus calmed them down? (touched them and told them not to be afraid)
- How can we listen to and follow Jesus today?
- Do you think they were surprised when Jesus asked them to keep it a secret? Why would he do that?

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'

You will need to allow 10 minutes for the guided meditation suggested on the following page for today's Liturgical Action if you decide to use this with the children. This may mean spending less time on the questions above.

LITURGICAL ACTION – *Ko te Ritenga Karakia*

Guided meditation on the Transfiguration. (*Have reflective music playing softly*)

Begin by telling the children that "during this reflection you will be going up to the mountaintop with Jesus. You will witness something truly amazing. So . . . "

Place yourself in a quiet place.
Relax.
Allow all the distractions to go out of your head.
Just still yourself.

Breathe in.
Hold.
Breathe out.
Breathe in.
Hold.
Breathe out.

Be still.
Relax.
Let all your worries fly away.

Breathe in.
Hold.
Breathe out.
Breathe in.
Hold.
Breathe out.

Imagine . . .

Jesus asks you to go with him to the top of the mountain.
You go with Peter, James, and John, friends of Jesus.
You are climbing.
It is a beautiful day.
The sky is clear and you can see all around.
Enjoy the sight.

You have reached the summit.
Sit and look all around.
Something catches your eye.
Something is happening where Jesus is.
He is wrapped in light, his clothes are dazzlingly white. ↗

There is Elijah from the scriptures!
Moses is there, too.
Jesus is talking with Moses and Elijah.
Watch this sight for awhile.
What do you make of it?

Peter interrupts this vision.
You can tell that he has seen it too.
He says, It is great that we are here. Let's build some tents and stay for awhile."

Then you heard a loud voice,
"This is my beloved Son, listen to him."
What do these words mean?
Repeat them over and over in your mind.
"This is my beloved Son, listen to him."

As you repeat those words, only Jesus stands before you.
Go up to Jesus.
Ask him to sit.
Sit next to him.
Ask him what the words of the loud voice mean?

He looks at you and asks,
"Do you listen to me?"
Answer him.
Be with him for awhile.
Listen to him.

It is time to re-enter this space.
Say good-bye for now.
Ask Jesus to lead your way into the rest of the day.
Say thank you.
Come back gently.
Open your eyes.
Remember.
Sit up.

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: As Jesus prayed on the mountain with his friends, so we now pray together.

- That we might always listen for God's voice
Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That when we are afraid we will remember to pray
Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we create the opportunities to spend some quiet time to pray to God
Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Jesus, you show us that you are our friend. Help us to change and become more like you

All: Amen

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

