



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

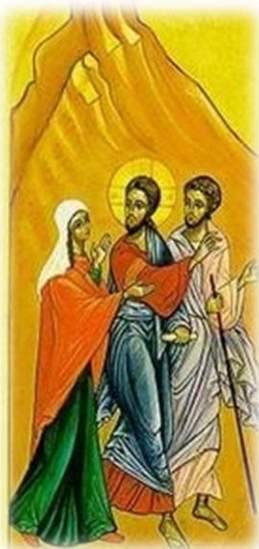
Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A

White

They recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread

Acts 2:14, 22-24, Ps 18, Luke 24:13-35



After the death of Jesus, his disciples were filled with despair and disbelief. Only days before, Jesus had been greeted by the crowds as he entered Jerusalem, and now he lay dead in a tomb.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Third Sunday of Easter, 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 24:13-35

Two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. As they were talking and thinking about what had happened, Jesus came near and started walking along beside them. But they did not know who he was.

Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?"

The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy. Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus, "Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?" "What do you mean" Jesus said

They answered "Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth. By what he did and said he showed that he was a powerful prophet who pleased God and all the people. Then the chief priests and our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross; we had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free!

"But it has already been three days since all this happened. Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the tomb early in the morning, but did not find the body of Jesus. They came back saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is

alive. Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus either."

Then Jesus asked the two disciples, "Why can't you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said? Didn't you know that the Messiah would have to suffer before he was given his glory?"

Jesus then explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures, beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets.

When the two of them came near the village where they were going, Jesus seemed to be going farther. They begged him. "Stay with us! It's already late, and the sun is going down."

So Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

After Jesus sat down to eat, He took some bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared.

They said to each other, "When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn't it warm our hearts?" So they got right up and returned to Jerusalem.

The two disciples found the eleven apostles and the others gathered together. And they learned from the group that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter.

Then the disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.



FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 22-24

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood with the eleven apostles and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd:

"Friends and everyone else living in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I have to say!

"Now, listen to what I have to say about Jesus from Nazareth. God proved that he sent Jesus to you by having him work miracles, wonders and signs. All of you know this.

"God had already planned and decided that Jesus would be handed over to you. So you took him and had evil men put him to death on a cross.

"But God set him free from death and raised him to life. Death could not hold him in its power."

Response: Alleluia!

I love you, LORD God,
 And you make me strong.
 You are my mighty rock,
 My fortress, my protector,
 The rock where I am safe,
 My shield, my powerful weapon,
 And my place of shelter. **R**

You are the living LORD!
 I will praise you.
 You are a mighty rock.
 I will honour you
 For keeping me safe.
 You give glorious victories
 To your chosen king. **R**

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

The disappointment of the disciples following the death of Jesus is reflected in the response of these two disciples who had left Jerusalem to return to Emmaus. The exact site of this town is not known, but the journey afforded an opportunity for these disciples to talk and reflect on what had happened. Being able to discuss events with the unrecognised Jesus opened the disciples to the explanation of the Scriptures (Liturgy of the Word) and the sharing of a meal (Liturgy of the Eucharist) – essentially the pattern of Mass as we know it today. It is in the parallels with the Last Supper, the action of the breaking of the bread, that the recognition of Jesus is revealed to the disciples – the action of taking and of blessing the bread, breaking it and sharing it. Understanding this story helps us to understand more fully what happens at Mass – we become informed by the Scriptures and nourished by Holy Communion.

Images from the Readings

- *Talking and thinking*
- *Why can't you understand?*
- *Didn't it warm our hearts?*
- *They knew he was the Lord*
- *Death could not hold him*

Reflection for Leaders

When studying the Emmaus story during this week, try to identify the areas of opposition which are employed in the telling, e.g. the disciples leaving Jerusalem dejectedly at the

beginning of that story, and rushing to return to Jerusalem with joy at the end. These two aspects frame the two actions of Jesus that are the essence of our experience of the Mass. As you reflect on your own journey of faith, have you ever feared that being a follower of Jesus will demand more from you than you are able to bear? Have you ever been tempted to turn you back and walk away? Just as the two disciples, in their dejection, found Jesus walking alongside them, have you ever had a sense of Jesus walking alongside you in your low moments? The disciples recognised that their hearts were burning within them as Jesus broke open the Scriptures to them. Have you ever had an experience of this personal response to Scripture? What might make Jesus' presence more real for you and help keep you committed to your Christian journey. During this week look for opportunities to share your own Good News experience with someone.

Reflecting on the Readings with the children

Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline.

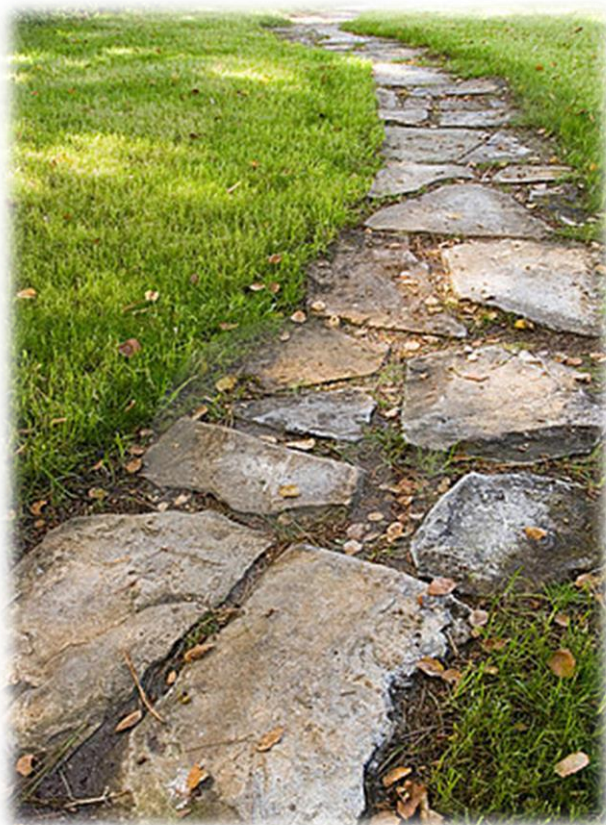
With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

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

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

White cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a cross with a pathway of stones from it.



Leader's Liturgy Outline

Third Sunday of Easter, 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
procession for their

I invite the children to join in the
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 want to draw close to you because you are our strength. Help us to understand and believe.

R Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-24 The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki
Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalms 18 (if used)

Response: Alleluia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)

Music © 2011 Maria Guzzo

D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ A

Easter: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Je - sus is ri - sen from death._____

Bm G D A G A D

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the light of the world.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

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**

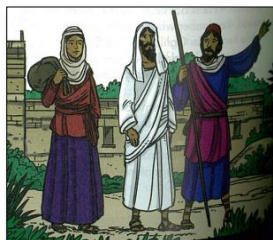
At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord
Children: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ / Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti.**

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 questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

- If something awful happened to one of your friends, would you want to get away from it? When Jesus was put to death, some of his friends left Jerusalem and went to a place called Emmaus. How do you think they were feeling? (Confused, disappointed)
- When Jesus came up beside them and started talking to them they didn't recognise him. Why do you think that was?
- How did they eventually realise that it was Jesus talking to them? (they got really excited when he was explaining Scripture to them and then when he shared a meal with them it was just like the Last Supper).
- How is this story similar to what we do at Mass? (In the Mass we listen to God's Word in the Scriptures and then we share a meal of bread and wine with Jesus and our community.)
- It took these disciples [who knew Jesus well] a long time to understand that what had happened was not what they had expected. When unexpected things happen to you (good things and not so nice things) how do you feel and how does having friends help you?

5-7 year olds: Using these pictures, ask the children to retell the story in their own words.



(taken from 'The Catholic Children's Bible, Saint Mary's Press, available from the Liturgy Centre)

LITURGICAL ACTION – *Ko te Ritenga Karakia*

Pray with the children:

“Jesus, may our hearts burn with love when you speak to us in the Scriptures.”

It would be good to pre-arrange, with your Priest, that all of the children will join in the procession of the gifts of bread and wine at Mass today so that they will see more clearly the connection between the Emmaus story and the Mass — the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

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: As we journey together during this Easter season, let us be open to God’s love and grace for all our needs:

- That our Church will always be a place of welcome to those who are feeling sad or unsure of their faith

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For a sense of Jesus' presence with us at Mass, in the Word of God, in the breaking of the bread, in the people gathered around us and in our Priest who leads us in prayer

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**

or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That our faith will grow strong

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**

or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For God's peace to comfort those who have lost loved ones and those who are sick

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**

or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God, who walks alongside us when we are fearful or disappointed, hear and answer our prayers that we bring to you through Jesus your Son

All: **Amen**

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