



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green

'Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.'

Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a, Psalm 89, Romans 6:3-4, 8-9, Matthew 10:40-42

Some people have a mat at their door that says 'Welcome'. What does it mean to welcome someone? Have you ever felt welcomed, or unwelcomed? Jesus always had time for other people, even when he was feeling tired. In the reading today Jesus tells us that when we welcome others and are kind to them, it is just as if we are welcoming Jesus.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Fourteenth 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 10:40-42

Jesus said to his disciples: "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me also welcomes the one who sent me.

"Anyone who welcomes a prophet, just because that person is a prophet, will be given the same reward as a prophet. Anyone who welcomes a good person, just because that person is good, will be given the same rewards as a good person.

"And anyone who gives one of my most humble followers a cup of cool water, just because that person is my follower, will surely be rewarded."

FIRST READING

Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A rich woman lived there, and she invited him for a meal. Each time Elisha was in town after that, he would eat at her home. The woman said to her husband, "I'm sure that this man who comes by here so often is a holy man of God. Let's build him a small room on our flat roof. We can put a bed, a table, a chair, and an oil lamp in the room. He can stay there whenever he comes to visit us." The next time Elisha came to Shunem, he spent the night in his room. Elisha asked his servant Gehazi, "What can we do to repay this woman for being so kind?" Gehazi answered, "She doesn't have a son, and her husband is old." Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tell the woman to come here." He told her, and she came and stood in the doorway of the room. Elisha promised the woman, "Next year about this time you will have a son of your own."

PSALM

Psalm 89

Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Our Lord, I will sing of your love forever.
Everyone yet to be born will hear me praise your faithfulness.
I will tell them, "God's love can always be trusted,
and his faithfulness lasts as long as the heavens. **R**

Our Lord, you bless those who join in the festival
and walk in the brightness of your presence.
We are happy all day because of you,
and your saving power brings honour to us. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

Brothers and sisters: Don't you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptised also share in his death? When we were baptised, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptised, so that we would live a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father. As surely as we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. We know that death no longer has any power over Christ. He died and was raised to life, never to die again.

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

The message of hospitality, begun in the first reading in which Elisha acknowledges his gratitude for the gracious hospitality shown to him by the Shunemite woman, continues through to Jesus' time and beyond, with the generosity and hospitality shown by women of all ages who supported Jesus and his ministry.

Today's Gospel completes Jesus' instructions to the twelve before sending them out. It is addressed not just to them but all who would follow as his representative.

In Biblical days an agent, or someone who acts on behalf

of another, was seen to be the people themselves. Jesus recognises this concept when he affords great significance to the treatment of those who follow him, explaining that it derives from God himself through Jesus. Prophets, despite not always being comfortable people to be around, must have a very clear understanding of what God wants and have the courage to pass that message on to the people. Scripture is full of incidents where the people reject the messages brought the prophets. Those who welcome the truth of God's message are disciples, and though the cost of discipleship is often high, the rewards are great – and these rewards shift from the missionaries themselves to those who support and facilitate their mission.



Images from the Readings

- Welcome for God's messengers
- Recognition of God's presence in all
- Rewards for kindness and hospitality
- Baptism into new life
- Christ conquered death

Reflection for Leaders

Most things we choose in life have costs as well as rewards. Even those involved in ministry in our own communities pay a price for their commitment to God. Even Mary, the mother of Jesus was not immune to the cost of discipleship. Who are the modern day prophets, and what do they challenge us to? Persecution, common in the early Church for those who followed this new minority religion, is still in evidence today. In what ways might people be persecuted for their faith today? Can you name any ancient or modern day figures that have suffered such persecution? What cost has being a believer been to you personally? Consider what any small gestures you make in your day-to-day life might say to others about the person that you are? During this week make a special effort to be open and welcoming and offer hospitality to 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:

Green cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a glass of water.

(You may like to have a jug of water and some plastic tumblers on hand for the Liturgical Action this week)



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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 love and care for every person. Help us also to respect everyone as Jesus showed us, and remind us that by welcoming them we are really welcoming you.

R Amen.

First Reading: Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

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

Psalm 89

Response: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

First Reading: Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

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

General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word._____

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

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.*

- Would a glass of water make you feel welcomed?
- What makes you feel welcome when you go somewhere new?
- Have you ever been invited to stay for a meal or a sleepover at a friend's house? How did they make you feel welcome?
- Do you think it is important to make people feel welcome? Why?
- Have you ever been made welcome just because of someone else that you both know?
- This is what Jesus is talking about when he speaks of hospitality and kindness to one of his messengers of prophets. Do you know what a prophet is? (Someone who speaks a message from God)
- Can you think of any people in your parish who help bring God's message to others? (RE teachers, Minister of the Word, Priest, etc)
- What does Jesus tell us about how we should treat these people?
- Jesus tells us that whatever we do for one of these people it is just the same as if we do that for Jesus.
- What other ways might we be able to make the word of God known? (the help we give to people, support for those who need help, etc)

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 may choose to use the *liquid picture* on page 9 with this group instead of using the questions)

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Have a jug and some plastic tumblers on hand. Ask the children to offer each other a small tumbler of water. Then pray together:

*Loving God, we ask that you help us to respect and care for
everyone as Jesus showed us.
May we remember that by welcoming others we are really
welcoming Him.*

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 God's chosen children let us ask our God to receive these prayers for all his children:

- That the Church becomes a place that welcomes everybody, especially those who don't belong anywhere else

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

- For generosity in what we share with each other and an openness to hearing God's message

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 kindness towards all people we come in contact with

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

- That we will be people with welcome in our eyes and our smiles

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

Leader: God of welcome and kindness, you have made us one family in Jesus Christ. In his name we ask you to answer these prayers and share your blessing and protection with us and all your people.

All: **Amen.**

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

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Liquid Picture

Matthew 10:40-42

Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me

Note to leaders: The following **liquid picture** is appropriate to use with children of any age but especially suitable for **younger children**.

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 to his disciples . . .
Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me!
Welcome the poor!
Welcome the stranger!
Welcome the lonely!
Welcome the sad!
Welcome everyone!

Leader: We welcome Jesus in everyone we meet.

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.