



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

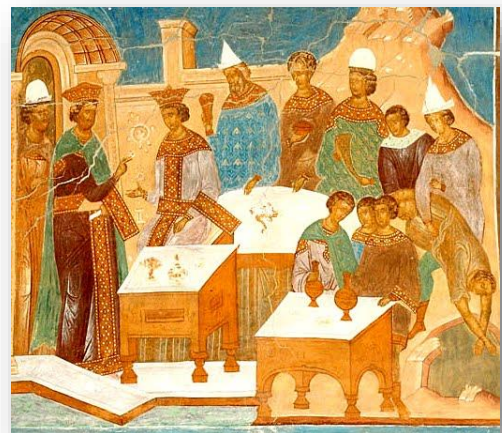
## *Twenty-Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A*

*Green*

### *'Wedding Banquet'*

Isaiah 25:6-10 Psalm 23 Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 Matthew 22:1-10

*God gives each one of us an invitation to join  
him in his  
heavenly kingdom and the celebration of  
everlasting life.  
We must choose whether to accept the  
invitation  
or turn away from his loving offer.*



### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty-Eight 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 22:1-10

Jesus told this story to teach the people: "The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a king gave a wedding banquet for his son. The king sent some servants to tell the invited guests to come to the banquet, but the guests refused. He sent other servants to say to the guests, 'The banquet is ready! My cattle and prize calves have all been prepared. Everything is ready. Come to the banquet!' But some of the guests did not pay any attention. Some of them left for their farms, and some went to their places of business. Others grabbed the servants, beat them up, and killed them. "This made the king so furious that he sent an army to kill those murderers and burn down their city. Then he said to the servants, 'It is time for the wedding banquet, and the invited guests don't deserve to come. Go out to the street corners and tell everyone you meet to come to the banquet.' They went out on the streets and brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike. And the banquet room was filled with guests.

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain the LORD All-Powerful will prepare for all nations a feast of the finest foods. Choice wines and the best meat will be served. Here the LORD will strip away the funeral clothes that cover the nations. The LORD ALL-Powerful will destroy the power of death and wipe away each tear. No longer will his people be embarrassed everywhere. The LORD has spoken! On that day, people will say, "The LORD God has saved us! Let's celebrate. We waited and waited, and now he is here." The powerful arm of the LORD will protect this mountain

## PSALM

Psalms 23

**Response: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life**

You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need. You let me rest in fields of green grass. You lead me to streams of peaceful water, and you refresh my life.

I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won't be afraid. You are with me. You treat me to a feast, and you honour me as your guest.

Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, LORD

## SECOND READING

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Brothers and sisters:

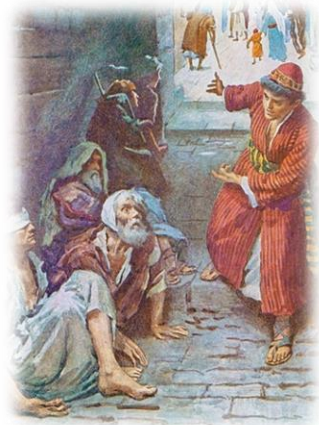
I know what it is to be poor or to have plenty, and I have lived under all kinds of conditions. I know what it means to be full or to be hungry, to have too much or too little. Christ gives me the strength to face anything. It was good of you to help me when I was having such a hard time. I pray that God will take care of all your needs with the wonderful blessings that come from Christ Jesus! May God our Father be praised forever and ever. Amen.

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

Isaiah records a Messianic banquet for all nations, a time when we will all sit together at God's table, a God of love and great love and compassion. In the second reading Paul speaks of his contentment in the face of hardships and his sureness of God's future provision for his friends. Roman prisons in those days were not renowned for their amenities and Paul had been treated quite harshly by his enemies, yet despite this his spiritual strength was a great encouragement

to his supporters in Philippi. The wedding banquet is a commonly used image for the kingdom of God in both the Hebrew and the Christian traditions. The feast symbolises abundance provided by God for all who accept the invitation, Jewish wedding celebrations having often lasted as long as a week. The time commitment by the invited guests for such a lengthy participation makes their refusal a little easier to understand, and their response to kill the messengers' echoes last weeks' Gospel. The reaction of the king was rather extreme, but does not make a point about the invitation issued by God being matched by our free response. This Gospel completes the story of the Messianic banquet from the first reading. But where that was open to all, this wedding banquet of today's Gospel is only extended to all once the elect have lost their chance to participate. The reference to the street corners indicates the places where people traditionally gathered and worshipped.



### *Images from the Readings*

- Come to the banquet!
- Invited guests don't deserve to come
- They brought in everyone
- Wipe away each tear
- Strength to face anything

### *Reflection for Leaders*

The wedding feast and the symbolism of the meal are significant for Christians because of the Eucharistic connotations. The meal of bread and wine that Jesus shared with his disciples, and which we share in the Eucharist, is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet where there will be an abundance for all who accept the invitation. Recall instances when you have refused invitations and the excuses you have used to avoid going somewhere you didn't want to. What excuses do you make today for not doing things that you ought to do? Can you identify what invitation God extends to you today? What sort of commitment is required for your acceptance? What are the things, which prevent you from responding fully to this invitation? Be aware this week of how you respond to invitations.

### *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, and a party or wedding invitation...



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## *Twenty-Eight 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:** Leader: O God, you offer your kingdom of heaven to each of us. Help us to do things your way so that we can share eternity with you.

**R** Amen.

### *First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10 (if used)*

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

### *Psalms 23*

**Response:** The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel  
(or another suitable response known by the children)

## Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

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

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)

Music © 2011 Maria Guzzo

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 22:1-10

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.

- Can you remember your favourite birthday party? Did you help get things ready? Was it lots of work? Imagine how you would feel if, after all that effort, the friends you invited didn't turn up? Jesus tells us this story today about a wedding banquet that the invited guests weren't interested in. A banquet is a big feast. In Jesus' day a wedding celebration went on for as long as a week. You would need to do a lot of work to prepare a banquet for all your guests for that long.
- How did the king feel when the guests didn't turn up? (furious) What did he do? What do you think Jesus meant when he told this story? (Jesus wants us all to be with him and celebrate together. There is a place in heaven for each one of us.)

- How do we show that we want to celebrate with Jesus? (one way is to celebrate together at Mass.)
- How happy are we to come along?

**5-7 year olds:** Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material or you may wish to use the Rina Wintour material on page 8 and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'.

## *LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Rītenga Karakia*



Sing a song of invitation, such as 'Come as you are' AOV 1:31,  
or of acceptance, such as, "Here I am, Lord" AOV 1:90

*(with younger children it may be easier to simply repeat a verse/the chorus as below)*

Come as you are, that's how I want you  
Come as you are, feel quite at home  
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven  
Come as you are, why stand alone?

© Deidre Browne ibvm, Melbourne Australia

Here I am Lord  
Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go Lord  
If you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart.

© Daniel L. Schutte

© As One Voice hymnal, Volume 1, published by  
Willow Connection Pty Ltd 1992





## *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:** Let us bring our prayers to the God of glory, who invites us to come and be blessed with every good gift:

- That the Church offers an invitation and a welcome to all people  
Let us pray to the Lord                      R      Lord hear our prayer  
or                      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the gift of hospitality  
Let us pray to the Lord                      R      Lord hear our prayer  
or                      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the generosity to respond willingly to what God invites us to do  
Let us pray to the Lord                      R      Lord hear our prayer  
or                      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all those in our schools and parish communities who are sick or lonely  
or who need to know God's love  
Let us pray to the Lord                      R      Lord hear our prayer  
or                      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** Good and gracious God, we come together as your children. Look upon us with kindness answer these prayers we offer for ourselves and others through Jesus Christ your Son

**All:** Amen

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

# Twenty-Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

## Liquid Pictures

Matthew 22:1-10

Wedding Banquet

**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 told the people a story to show them what the Kingdom is like...

The banquet is ready!

Come on down!

**Leader:** But the people said...

I'm too busy!

I'm too tired!

Count me out!

**Leader:** If you won't come, we'll invite someone else...

I'll come!

Pick me!

Count me in!

Let's party!



**Leader:** God invites everyone to the kingdom but not everyone wants to come.

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.