



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A World Mission Sunday

*'A question about taxes'*

*Green*

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 Psalm 96 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 Matthew 22:15-21

*Everything we have was given to us by God, who gives us love with unending generosity. How often do we remember to say "thank you" or to return just a little of what we have been given?*



### Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Mission Sunday, 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 22:15-21

The Pharisees got together and planned how they could trick Jesus into saying something wrong. They sent some of their followers and some of Herod's followers to say to him, "Teacher, we know that you are honest. You teach the truth about what God wants people to do. And you treat everyone with the same respect, no matter who they are.

Tell us what you think!

Should we pay taxes to the Emperor or not?"

Jesus knew their evil thoughts and said, "Why are you trying to test me? You show-offs!

Let me see one of the coins used for paying taxes."

They brought him a silver coin, and he asked, "Whose picture and name are on it?"

"The Emperor's," They answered

Then Jesus told them,

"Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God."

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

The LORD said to Cyrus, his chosen one, "I have taken hold of your right hand to help conquer nations and remove kings from power. City gates will open for you. Not one will stay closed. "Cyrus, you don't even know me! But I have called you by name and highly honoured you, because of Jacob, my servant, and Israel, my chosen one. Only I am the LORD! "There is no other God. I have made you strong, though you don't know me. Now everyone from east to west will know that I am the LORD. No other gods are real."

## PSALM

Psalms 96

**Response:** Give the Lord glory and honour

Sing a new song to the LORD! Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the LORD. Tell every nation on earth, "The LORD is wonderful and does marvellous things!"

"The LORD is great and deserves our greatest praise! He is the only God worthy of our worship. Other nations worship idols, but the LORD created the heavens.

"Everyone on earth, now tremble and worship the LORD, majestic and holy. "Announce to the nations, "The LORD is King! God will judge the people with fairness."

## SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

To the church in Thessalonica: the people of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that God will be kind to you and will bless you with peace! We thank God for you and always mention you in our prayers. Each time we pray we tell God our Father about your faith and loving work and about your firm hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. My dear friends, God loves you, and we know he has chosen you to be his people. When we told you the good news, it was with the power and assurance that come from the Holy Spirit, and not simply with words.

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

Isaiah was among the exiles during the captivity in Babylon. He never lost hope of his country's restoration, and sees Cyrus the Persian as his people's liberator when he overran Babylon in 538BC. Thessalonica, capital of Macedonia, was an important centre of trade. This letter was probably the first book of the New Testament to be written. Its purpose was to allay misplaced fears for those who had died before the second coming. This excerpt shows Paul's great affection for his converts, Affection was not featured in the Gospel. The Pharisees, strict legalists, were devious in their plan to trap Jesus. Given the political and religious situation of the time, the question posed by the Pharisees offered a no-win scenario. The people had to pay

taxes to the Roman Emperor as well as a temple tax. Had Jesus answered 'yes', he could have been accused of betraying his own religious duty. A 'no' would be treason – inciting others to not pay taxes was sedition. Jesus' answer makes clear that there are obligations to the government for any citizen, but there are also obligations to God. Whereas the coin bears the image of the Emperor and so belongs to him, the whole of creation displays the imprint of God. Civil authority must be recognised but the first loyalty of all creation is to God.

### *Images from the Readings*

- Planned how to trick Jesus
- You show offs!
- Give God what belongs to God
- I have called you by name
- You are chosen

### *Reflection for Leaders*

As you reflect on the readings today, think about the obligations that you have towards God and towards the State. We live in an increasingly secular society, where faith in God is often viewed as irrelevant and unnecessary. For many of us, there are increasing difficulties in living lives which balances our obligations to God and to society. Can you think of ways that you might be able to improve the integration of these aspects of your life? What are the things that belong to God? How easy do you find it giving back to God what belongs to God? In what ways do you do this? Can you identify trends in the world today that might benefit from having Gospel values applied to them? How might you actively promote some of these values? During the coming week, consider carefully the response that Jesus would have towards issues that come up with regard to political, economic or current events in your neighbourhood. As this Sunday is **World Mission Sunday** and the Liturgical Action this week focuses on Mission. (Our questions for reflecting with the children and our liturgical action are sourced from [www.missiontogether.org.uk](http://www.missiontogether.org.uk))

### *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, some coins in a purse.



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A World Mission Sunday

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, king of all creation and all things belong to you. Give us the grace and strength to stay close to you always, so that our lives give honour and praise to you.

**R** Amen.

### *First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 (if used)*

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

### *Psalm 96* Response:

**Give the Lord glory and honour**  
(or another suitable response known by the children)

## Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

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 22:15-21

**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 Whakāaro

**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.*

- Jesus was very clever. He was able to turn the question back on the Pharisees. He reminded them that God is greater than Caesar. The whole world and everything in it belong to God. What belongs to God? Examples are trees, air, the seas, the land, animals, people - yes, even Caesar!
- We are made in the image and likeness of God; we are his children and we all belong to God. He is our Father and we are precious to him.
- What does it mean to be made in the image and likeness of God? We know something of what God is like because of Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God. He showed us how to be prayerful, patient, kind, giving and loving. Encourage the children to provide examples of how we can be like Jesus. When we act in the way Jesus did and when we follow his words to love our neighbours and even people who are mean to us we are reminding others of what God is like, of God's great love.

**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'

## *LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia*

Sadly, there are children around the world who do not know that they are made in the image and likeness of God. No one has told them that they are precious and that God is their loving Father. There are even some places where there are no hospitals or schools.

**Today is World Mission Sunday. It is the day when Catholics around the world celebrate the fact that everyone belongs to God. We pray for each other and we pray for those children around the world who do not have things like schools or hospitals and children who have little or no food and go hungry. We pray for those missionaries all over the world who are sharing God's love with those children, bringing the good news of Jesus to them to try and help them out of their troubles. By being like Jesus these missionaries show what God's love is like. And we are all Missionaries of God's love. By sharing and praying for children less fortunate than us we can show them what God is like.**

**We are all Missionaries of God's love and we belong to him!**

### **The Mission Together Prayer**

May all Children  
In the World  
Share love  
Share friendship and live  
In the peace  
Of God's love  
Now and forever.

Amen.



## 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 Inoinga 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:** God has called us by name. We now bring all our needs in confidence, because God loves and cares for us:

- That God's goodness will always be a source of wisdom for all God's family, the Church

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

- For the grace to treat all people with honesty and fair play

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

- That all those who have been touched by war and conflict in our world will know the peace of God

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

- For our family members who have died, that they will remain in God's love forever

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

**Leader:** Creator God, all things belong to you. Give your forgiveness and peace to those we remember today, through Jesus Christ your son

**All:    Amen**

The children rejoin the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.

# Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

## Chorus play

Matthew 22:15-21

A question about taxes

**People required:** Reader, Jesus

- Reader:** The Pharisees got together and planned a way to trick Jesus.
- Chorus:** **Uh-oh!**
- Reader:** They tried to catch him out.
- Chorus:** **Oh no!**
- Reader:** What do you reckon Jesus? Should we pay taxes to the Emperor or not?
- Chorus:** **Taxes! Oh no!**
- Reader:** What should we do Jesus?
- Chorus:** **What should we do?**
- Jesus:** You're trying to trick me!
- Chorus:** **Who us?**
- Jesus:** You show offs!
- Chorus:** **Not us!**
- Jesus:** Give me a coin.
- Chorus:** **A silver coin.**
- Jesus:** Whose image (picture) is on this coin?
- Chorus:** **Caesar's! The Emperor!**
- Jesus:** Then give the coin to the Emperor.
- Chorus:** **Give to the Emperor what belongs to him.**
- Jesus:** And give to God what belongs to God.
- Chorus:** **Give to God what belongs to God.**



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.

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