



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green

‘Greatest commandment’

1 Thessalonians 1:5-8 Psalm 18 Matthew 22:34-40



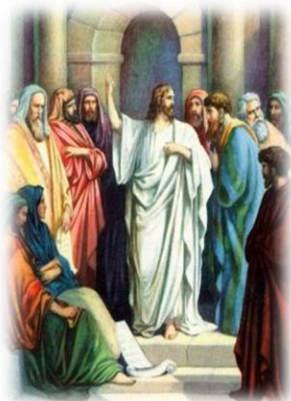
Living Love - Jesus taught us to love God and to love each other more than anything else in our lives.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Thirtieth 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 22:34-40



After Jesus had made the Sadducees look foolish, the Pharisees heard about it and got together. One of them was an expert in the Jewish Law. So he tried to test Jesus by asking, “teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?” Jesus answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.’ This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’ All the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets are based on these two commandments.”

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Brothers and sisters: 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. You knew what kind of people we were and how we helped you. So, when you accepted the message, you followed our example and the example of the Lord. You suffered, but the Holy Spirit made you glad. You became an example for all the Lord's followers in Macedonia and Achaia and because you, the Lord's message has spread everywhere in those regions.

Response: I love you, Lord, my strength

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.

You are the living LORD! I will praise you. You are a mighty rock. I will honour you for keeping me safe. Your faithful love for David will never end.

Second Reading not included in Lectionary for Masses with Children this week.

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

In our first reading today, Paul thanks God for the spiritual development he sees in his converts in Thessalonica in the northern Roman province. They are proof that this preaching has been effective. Despite persecution they are filled with Christian joy, which has made them an example to others. Matthew's gospel records an encounter between Jesus and the Sadducees and the Pharisees. The Sadducees were a wealthy sect of Jews consisting of a priestly aristocracy. They denied belief in resurrection and angels. This is the final encounter between Jesus and his enemies recorded by Matthew. The Pharisees and Sadducees are trying to expose Jesus' lack of professional knowledge of Scripture to trap him into giving more importance to one commandment over the others. It is possible that some scribes were recognising that some commandments were more important than others, and may have been looking for a simplification of the Law. Jesus' answer does in fact originate in Deut. 6: 4 – 9 and Lev 19:18, so it was already present in Jewish Law. But Jesus brought both these passages into conjunction – a principle and its application. Jesus himself is an example of this personified – Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus embodies this dual commandment of love. This is the example that Christians must emulate.

Images from the Readings

- Most important commandment?
- Love God first
- Love others
- All Law based on these
- An example for all the Lord's followers

Reflection for Leaders

Jesus' words ought to align our response to God with our attitude towards people. It is not possible to love God and despise people. Both are needed to fulfil our faith for it to be authentic. Which of these two parts of Jesus' great commandment do you find most easy to do – is it easier for you to love God and ignore those around you, or are you drawn to people but find it difficult to be attentive to God? Creating balance in our lives requires continual effort. In what ways do you achieve and maintain this balance? Reflect on how you have experienced God's love and how you have extended it to others. Look for opportunities this week to do this.

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 chart with 1 Cor 13:4-8

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, IT DOES NOT ENVY, IT DOES NOT BOAST, IT IS NOT PROUD. IT IS NOT RUDE, IT IS NOT SELF-SEEKING, IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED, IT DOES NOT KEEP RECORD OF WRONGS. LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL, BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH. IT ALWAYS PROTECTS, ALWAYS TRUSTS, ALWAYS HOPES, ALWAYS PERSEVERES.

LOVE NEVER FAILS.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Thirtieth 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: O God, your love is freely given to all people. May the light of your kindness shine through us as we share your love with others.

R Amen.

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8 (if used)

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

Psalms 18

Response: I love you, Lord, my strength
(or another suitable response known by the children)



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 22:34-40

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.

- Has your teacher or your parents ever given you a list of things to do that is so long and complicated that you don't know where to start? It can feel overwhelming when you have too much to remember. When Jesus grew up he had to learn a great long list of rules, called the Law of Moses, which had to be followed to please God. Jesus instead gives us simple directions. What do you think Jesus means when he says 'Love others as much as you love yourself'?
- Do you know what it is called? (the ten commandments) The church leaders in Jesus' time were called the Sadducees and the Pharisees. These complicated rules were very important to them, and they expected everyone to keep them perfectly. They wanted to test Jesus by asking him which rule was the most important.
- Do you remember what Jesus said? (Love God first with every bit of yourself, and love others as much as you love yourself) Jesus' answer covered everything! Was it a good answer?
- What do you think Jesus means when he says 'love? What did Jesus want us to learn by his answer? (Love grows when we share it, and when we love others we also show love for God) Can you think of ways that we can put these words into action? (look for specific examples that the children might be able to do)

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

Read 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 with the children echoing each line:

“Love never hurries, it is always kind.

It is not jealous and never boasts of its greatness.

Love is not rude or selfish.

It is always ready to forgive and forget mistakes we make.

Love is no friend of wickedness but delights in honesty and truth.

Love is strong and never gives up.

It never loses its trust in God or its hope for the future.

Love will survive all things because it is everlasting.”

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: We have listened to gospel and come in faith to our God with our prayers and our needs.

- That love for God and others is always the motivating factor in the way God's family, the Church, lives its faith
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the light of love shines through us and touches the lives of all we meet
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a greater understanding of God's love in our world today
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all those who are sick, lonely or in need, that we will share our time and love with them
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God, your loving kindness was shown to us through Jesus. Look kindly on us and those for whom we pray today through Jesus Christ your Son

All: Amen

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



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Chorus play

Matthew 22:34-40

Greatest commandment

People required: Reader, Jesus

Reader: The Pharisees got together and planned another way to trick Jesus.

Chorus: Uh-oh!

Reader: They tried to catch him out again.

Chorus: Oh no!

Reader: What do you reckon Jesus? What is the most important commandment?

Chorus: What is it Jesus?

Jesus: Easy! There are two commandments that go together.

Chorus: Two Commandments!

Jesus: You must love God with all your heart...

Chorus: Love God.

Jesus: You must love God with all your soul...

Chorus: Love God.

Jesus: You must love God with all your mind!

Chorus: Love God.

Jesus: And the other command is this: Love others...

Chorus: Love others.

Jesus: Just as much as you love yourself.

Chorus: Love God and love others!



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