



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

1st Sunday of Advent - Year B

Violet

'Waiting and expectation'

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Psalm 85 Mark 13:33-37

The word Advent means coming. It is a time of waiting and expectation. Only God knows when the second coming will be, but in today's Gospel we are reminded that we must stay awake and be ready for Jesus when he returns at the end of time.

At this time of the year we are reminded to keep awake and to call upon God for mercy. When we are preparing for anything what do we do? We look forward to the event that is about to happen with excitement and sometimes with a little trepidation.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the First Sunday of Advent, 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

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Watch out and be ready! You don't know when the time will come. It is like what happens when a man goes away for a while and places his servants in charge of everything. He tells each of them what to do, and he orders the watchmen to be on their guard.

So be on your guard! You don't know when the master of the house will come back. It could be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or in the morning. But if he comes suddenly, don't let him find you asleep. I tell everyone just what I have told you. Be on your guard!"



Brothers and sisters: My prayer is that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!

I never stop thanking my God for being kind enough to give you Christ Jesus, who helps you speak and understand so well. Now you are certain that everything we told you about our Lord Christ Jesus is true.

You are not missing out on any blessings, as you wait for him to return. And until the day Christ does return, he will keep you completely innocent.

God can be trusted, and he chose you to be partners with his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Response: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you.

I will listen to you, Lord God, because you promise peace to those who are faithful and no longer foolish.

You are ready to rescue everyone who worships you, so that you will live with us in all of your glory.

Love and loyalty will come together; goodness and peace will unite.

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

Mark is writing for a community that is suffering persecution for what it believes and for the faith it practices. The people believe that the end time is near because their persecution seems like a battle of the forces of good against the forces for evil in their world. Mark tells them that they are to be vigilant, to wait in hope. He tells them that though they are expecting the end times, that the end times have already begun is not certain. He says that we don't know when that time will come and that the best attitude to adopt is to always be ready for it, to always live in hope. The future, Mark tells them, is in God's hands and beyond our control, understanding or prediction.

Isaiah tells his people that they are to be known for their faith and hope in God. A people who are forever watching for the actions and the presence of God in the world. Isaiah's is a lament on behalf of his people just returned to their land after suffering exile and hard times. They are struggling to re-establish themselves, poverty is rife yet they are full of hope. In their hope they chide their God for his apparent absence, they are striving for success and know that unless the hand of God is visible in what they do then they strive in vain. So they chide God in their determination to succeed.

Images from the Readings

- Always be ready
- Be on your guard!
- God will bless you with peace
- Believe in Jesus
- Thank God always

Reflection for Leaders

When we are looking forward to some event, a birthday for instance, how do we feel as the time draws nearer? Does our behaviour change at this time of waiting and preparing? How do we behave that is different to 'normal'?

The Gospel today tells us that we don't know when the waited for event is going to happen. We are told to always be on our guard to always be expecting the end of things as we know them. There are some things during a time of waiting that we can keep on growing in our lives. What about the feeling of hope we have that comes from a belief that we have been blessed by God with the gift of our faith. That appreciation can grow and survive throughout all of our lives. So like Paul in the Second Reading we will continue to thank God for our Saviour in our prayer, by full and active participation in the Sunday Eucharist and by participation as an active member of the church in the world in our dealings with others.

It is important especially to keep that feeling of hope alive and active in our lives. Hope is the dynamo that drives us on through the daily struggles we face. It is the source of our missionary journey to others. Hope is the light in us that attracts others to our way of life. Unless we live as people of hope we are robbing others of the chance to see that we have faith in our redemption and in the redemptive teachings of Christ.

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:

Violet cloth, Lectionary, a candle, and Advent Wreath with three purple candles and one pink candle.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

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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

for their

I invite the children to join in the procession
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 are our maker, we rely on your help and mercy, be with us this day
and always so that we may live good lives.

R Amen.

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

(This week our liturgical action moves to the beginning of our Liturgy of the Word with Children) Invite the children to join hands around the focus and pray a blessing on the wreath:

“Lord God, let your love bless us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

Children respond, “Come, Lord Jesus, Come”

- Light the first purple candle.



First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

(if used)

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

Psalm 85

Response: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you.

(or another suitable response known by the children)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)

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Advent: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Make a straight path for the Lord.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the hope for the world.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark
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 someone important is coming to visit you and your family, how do you prepare for their coming? *Do you:*
 - tidy your room and the rest of the house;
 - dust and clean;
 - prepare a meal; or make up a bed in the guest room?
- It is easy to be ready for a visitor when you know the time to expect them, but sometimes they arrive unexpectedly and surprise you! Would you find it more difficult to keep everything just as it should be if you did not know when your visitor was coming?

- Does anyone know exactly when Jesus will return to us? We know that Jesus will return at the end of time, but only God knows exactly when that will be.
- What did Jesus tell us to do? To keep ourselves ready for the time when he will come again. How can we do this? Just as we prepare our homes and put them in order for a visitor, so we can prepare our hearts and put our lives in order for Jesus.
- Advent is a good time to spring clean our lives! To polish up the good things and make them shine, and to clear out the bad habits so that we can make a fresh start. By living each day as Jesus taught us, filled with goodness and love, we will be ready to welcome him when he comes again.

5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material. You may wish to use the 'liquid picture' on page 8 with this age group.

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: Inspired by today's readings let us call upon our loving God for our needs:

- For the church, home of the poor, that in all countries the poor and the needy will be welcomed.
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For food enough to feed everyone, that starvation and malnutrition will be forgotten.
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That everyone will find the hope of faith.
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will be ready and willing to live Christian lives.
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of Promises and Hope, you care for your people, care for us and for those for whom we pray through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

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

1st Sunday of Advent, Year B

Liquid Picture

Mark 13:33-37

Waiting and expectation

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:
“Watch out and be ready!
You don’t know when the time will come.
Be on your guard!
If the master returns –
Don’t let him find you asleep.
Be on your guard!

Leader: Tell everyone just what I have told you.



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.