



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

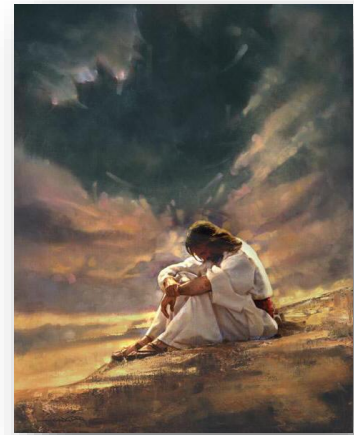
## *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent - Year B*

*Violet*

*'Turn back to God'*

*Genesis 9:8-15 Psalm 25 Mark 1:12-15*

*Have you ever thought about doing something that you know is not right? We call this 'temptation.' Even Jesus was tested by temptations. Today we read how he went into the desert to pray for forty days. Today, we too begin our forty day period of prayer called Lent. It is a little like going into the desert with Jesus.*



### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the First Sunday of Lent, 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 1:12-15

Right away God's Spirit made Jesus go into the desert. He stayed there for forty days while Satan tested him. Jesus was with the wild animals, but angels took care of him.

After John was arrested Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God. He said, "The time has come! God's kingdom will soon be here. Turn back to God and believe the good news!"

God told Noah and his sons; "I am going to make a solemn promise to you and to all who will live after you. This includes the birds and animals that came out of the boat. I promise every living creature on earth that the earth and those living on it will never again be destroyed by a flood. "The rainbow that I have put in the sky will be my sign to you and to every living creature on earth. It will tell you that I will keep this solemn promise forever. When I send clouds to cover the earth, and the rainbow appears in the sky, I will remember my promise to you and to all other living creatures. Never again will I let flood waters destroy all life."

## PSALM

Psalm 25

**Response:** **Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Show me your paths and teach me to follow;  
Guide me by your truth and instruct me. You keep me safe **R.**

Please, Lord, remember, you have always been patient and kind.  
Show how truly kind you are and remember me. **R.**



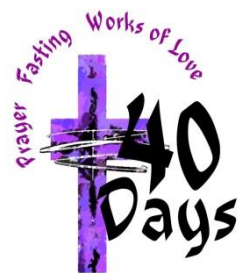
*Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)*  
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## *Background to the Readings for Leaders*

The covenant with Noah is the first described in the O.T. It is unconditional and is marked by a natural phenomenon. Mark's account of the debate between Jesus and Satan contrasts in its brevity with that in Matthew(4:1-13) and Luke(4:1-11) but it has the same idea of the Son of God overcoming testing by Satan before beginning his public ministry. The forty days of testing echoes that undergone by Moses(Exodus34:28) and Elijah(1Kings19:8) In Jewish tradition Satan serves as a leader of opposition to God's people. The lines "After John was arrested..."(CEV) foreshadow Jesus own fate. Jesus preaches about God's future display of power and judgement - the future establishment of God's rule over all creation is said to have drawn near. God's kingdom will demand a reorienting of life. "...good news" relates Jesus' teaching to post Easter faith.

## *Images from the Readings*

- Desert
- Wild animals
- Angels
- Testing
- Good News
- God's Kingdom
- Rainbow
- Promise



## *Reflection for Leaders*

*Our universe, and more especially, our world has death, resurrection and renewal as its very core, continuous change is a part of its nature. Lent, if you like, is a celebration of change, of turning back, of renewing and reviewing, of turning over a new leaf. A time of looking towards death, a big change, a major renewal to look forward to and to prepare for, a time to remember the rainbow and our part in the covenant. Turn away from our idols, our preoccupations, our crutches, anything that we have become accustomed to using as props and supports and turn back to God. Even the pursuit of knowledge and learning is a distraction. Practice acts of charity on yourself this lent, reign in the excesses you allow yourself, begin to take account of your spiritual life. Talk to someone about where you are at spiritually, make this a regular part of you spiritual housekeeping, find a spiritual friend.*

## *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, cards decorated with a rainbow, and pens, (desert) sand and stones.**

# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent - Year B

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 loving God, by our baptism you have called us to be your children. Help us to share with those we meet, our friends and family the hope and faith you have given us.

**R** Amen.

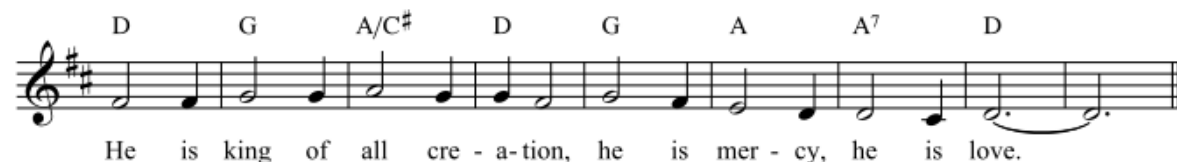
*First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15*

*(if used)*

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

*Psalms 25*

**Response:** Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.  
*(or another suitable response known by the children)*



### Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

**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.*

- In the First Reading what is the sign God promised to Noah as a reminder of the agreement between God and his people? What does God promise in the agreement?
- What made Jesus go into the desert? How long was he there? What happened to him while he was there? When Jesus left the desert what did he do? What did Jesus ask us to do?
- What do you think Jesus wants us to change in our lives? How can we show that we believe in Jesus?
- What is the Good News that Jesus asks us to believe in?

All of us can change for the better but it doesn't happen overnight, help the children to understand this. The important thing is to try to change for the better and to keep asking for God's help. Remember God's agreement with us, that we will not be abandoned. Lent is a special time when we make a special effort to change our lives. Focus on the children's lives and the small, but real ways they can try.

**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*

Invite the children to take a card and write down a promise for a small change in response to God's promises to us.

They can take it home and remember it during the week.



My promise...



My promise...



My promise...



My promise...



## 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:** Inspired by today's readings let us call upon our loving God for our needs:
- For the Church, may the spirit of God help the Church to tell the Good News in every place on earth.  
Let us pray to the Lord            R    Lord hear our prayer  
or                                    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
  - For all people, that everyone will have someone to care for them when they need the help of others.  
Let us pray to the Lord            R    Lord hear our prayer  
or                                    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
  - For those who suffer when people are unkind, mean or violent towards them.  
Let us pray to the Lord            R    Lord hear our prayer  
or                                    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
  - For ourselves, that the Holy Spirit will help us to keep our Lenten promises.  
  
Let us pray to the Lord            R    Lord hear our prayer  
or                                    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** O God you show us the love that is in others, send your love upon us and those for whom we pray, through Christ our Lord.

**All:**                    **Amen**

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