



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *Twenty second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B*

*Green*

### *'Following Jesus'*

Deuteronomy 4: 1-2, 6-8 Psalm 15 James 1:17 -18. 21b-22 Mark 7: 1-5, 14-15, 21-23

*The Pharisees and scribes had made many laws that were supposed to help the Jews obey God's law. After a time it became more important to obey their own laws than those of God.*

*Today we hear how and why Jesus disobeyed one of these laws.*



### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty second 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**

Mark 7:1-5,14-15,21-23

Some Pharisees and several teachers of the Law of Moses from Jerusalem came and gathered around Jesus. They noticed that some of his disciples ate without first washing their hands. The Pharisees and all other Jewish people obey the teachings of their ancestors. They always wash their hands in the proper way before eating. None of them will eat anything they buy in the market until it is washed. They also follow a lot of other teachings such as washing cups, pitchers and bowls.

The Pharisees and teachers asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples obey what our ancestors taught us to do? Why do they eat without washing their hands?"

Jesus called the crowd together again and said, “Pay attention and try to understand what I mean. The food you put into your mouth does not come out unclean and unfit to worship God. The bad words that come out of your mouth are what make you unclean.”

“Out of your heart come evil thoughts, vulgar deeds, stealing, murder, unfaithfulness in marriage, greed, meanness, deceit, indecency, envy, insults, pride and foolishness. All these come from your heart, and they are what make you unfit to worship God.”

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8

Moses said: “People of Israel, listen carefully to the laws and commands that I am teaching you. If you obey them, you will live, and you will take the land that the Lord God of your ancestors is giving you. I am telling you what the Lord God has commanded. Don’t add anything or take anything away.”

“By faithfully obeying these commands, you will show other nations how wise and understanding you are. They will learn about these laws and say, ‘This great nation is very wise and understanding. ’ No other great nation has a god who is close enough to answer their prayers, as the Lord God does for us. And no other great nation has laws that are as fair as the ones I am giving you today.”

## PSALM

Psalm 15

**Response:**                    **The just will live in the presence of the Lord**  
   **or        Alleluia!**

Only those who obey God and do as they should  
Speak the truth and don’t spread gossip. **R**

They treat others fairly and don’t say cruel things.  
Those who do these things will always stand firm. **R**

## SECOND READING

James 1:17-18.21b-22

Brothers and sisters: Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father who created all the lights of heavens. He is always the same and never makes dark shadows by changing. He wants us to be his own special people, and so he sent the true message to give us new birth. Be humble and accept the message that is planted in you to save you. Obey God’s message! Don’t fool yourselves by just listening to it.

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

The reading from the book of Deuteronomy describes a reformation of the faith of the Israelites which took place during the time of Joshua. The teaching here from Moses calls the people back to the original covenant. It relates to their lives at the time, emphasising that human traditions are not to be added to God's revelation. The law is presented not as a burden, but as a gift, as a source of life and wisdom and closeness to God. The laws governing washing probably originated in practices to ensure health and hygiene, but physical signs of impurity came to be seen as symbolic of a moral or spiritual imperfection. The complaint levelled against Jesus and his followers by the Pharisees is that of not observing the Jewish tradition of ceremonial washing, and thus allowing themselves to be numbered among the unclean. They were a group who took ritual observance very seriously. Jesus' words accuse them of being hypocrites – of presenting human observances as God's law, binding them to external practices. He wants to free people from the weight of stifling tradition that clogs up the heart and prevents proper worship of God.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *Unclean hands*
- *Obey the teachings*
- *Out of your heart come evil thoughts*
- *hypocrisy*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

Jesus is only really interested in the stirrings of the human heart, the personal issues that preoccupy us and influence our choices and behaviour. No external law can change people's hearts. When our hearts are set on God they are freed from the multitude of human rules that tie us down, hinder a direct, personal relationship with God and prevent proper action and worship. What are some 'human regulations' in today's world that you find difficult to conform to? Why?

Are you in need of a change of heart? What might need to change in order to live the Christian life more fully?

What might Jesus affirm in your own heart, and how might he challenge you to grow further?

## *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*

*Green cloth (ordinary time), Lectionary, candle, a mask, a bowl of water with a sprig of greenery*



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## *Twenty second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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 God, in the Readings you give us all we need to live. Help us to listen with our hearts, our minds and our ears, so that hearing your Word we will become your children.

**R** Amen.

### *First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8*

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

**Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

### *Psalm 15*

**Response:** The just will live in the presence of the Lord

or Alleluia!

### *Second Reading: James 1:17-18. 216-22*

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

**Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**



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: Mark 7:1-5, 14-15, 21-23*

**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 Whakāaro*

**8-12 year olds:**

**Suggested Beginning:** A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow children the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. When each has had an opportunity to speak you might begin general discussion by building on to their responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas:

- Why do we have a mask at our prayer focus today?  
 People sometimes hide behind a mask so we can't see what they really think and mean. In today's Gospel we see that the Pharisees and teachers of the law noticed that Jesus and his disciples didn't always follow all the complicated rules and laws that had been made up. Jesus knew that the Pharisees and teachers of the law were saying one thing but doing something else. They had made the rules more important than love for others. Jesus was trying to make things easier for the people by looking at what was really important.

- How do we know what is really important?
- What are the things that bring us closer to God and other people?
- What ways does God want us to behave?
- Can we make a list of some of these things?
- Is it ever right to break rules?



Rules and laws are very important in our lives. We have special rules at home and at school, we also live by special rules and laws of our country.

**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 sing "Create in me a clean heart" or other appropriate song.

Sprinkle the children with water to symbolise the cleansing of our thoughts and words and hearts.



## *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: With great hope in our hearts, and knowing God sees that we are in need of help, let us pray to our loving God for our needs:

- For the Church, which is a church of the poor, that it will lead all people to make wise choices. Let us pray to the Lord

**R Lord hear our prayer or E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That people everywhere will have the opportunity and the resources needed for them to grow and learn. Let us pray to the Lord

**R Lord hear our prayer or E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That people of Aotearoa-New Zealand will put the care of other people before money. Let us pray to the Lord

**R Lord hear our prayer or E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That we will try to think about other's needs before our own. Let us pray to the Lord

**R Lord hear our prayer or E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Loving God you provide for the poor and needy, hear the prayers we make to you through Jesus Christ, our Lord

All: **Amen**

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



# Twenty second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

## Chorus play

Mark 7:1-5,14-15,21-23

Following Jesus

**Note to leaders:** The following **chorus play** is appropriate to use with children of any age but especially suitable for **younger children**.

**People required:** Leader, Reader 1 and Reader 2

**Leader:** The chorus response is 'Follow Jesus'.

**Reader 1:** 'Follow me' Jesus said...

**Reader 2:** Follow me.

**Chorus:** Follow Jesus!

**Reader 1:** Listen to what I have to say.

**Reader 2:** Listen to Jesus.

**Chorus:** Follow Jesus!

**Reader 1:** When you speak, say what you mean.

**Reader 2:** Say what you mean.

**Chorus:** Follow Jesus!

**Reader 1:** And mean what you say!

**Reader 2:** Mean what you say.

**Chorus:** Follow Jesus!

**Reader 1:** 'Follow me,' Jesus said

**Reader 2:** Follow me.

**Chorus:** Follow Jesus!



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.