



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

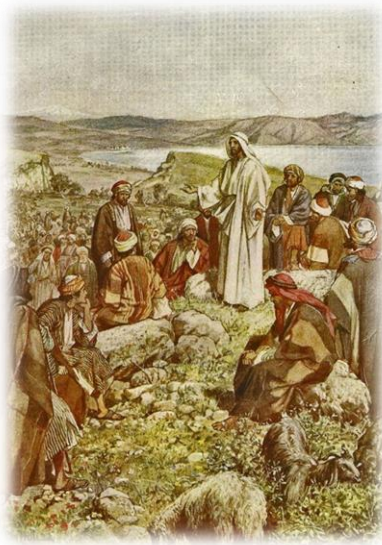
Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Green

'Happy are the poor'

Jeremiah 17:7-8 Psalm 40 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 Luke 6:17, 20-23



The crowds had followed Jesus to listen to him teach and to be healed if they were sick. When Jesus sat down and began to teach beside the Sea of Galilee, the people gathered on the hillside around him. This is why today's reading is often called 'The sermon on the Mount'. Jesus gave four examples of happiness that do not match what society believes. So what was Jesus telling us in this sermon? If we open our hearts and lives to God's faithful love we will know the true happiness that Jesus spoke of.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Sixth 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

Luke 6:17, 20-23

Jesus and his apostles went down from the mountain and came to some flat, level ground. Many other disciples were there to meet him. Large crowds of people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon were there too.

Jesus looked at his disciples and said: 'God will bless you people who are poor. His kingdom belongs to you! God will bless you hungry people. You will have plenty to eat! God will bless you people who are crying. You will laugh!

'God will bless you when others hate you and won't have anything to do with you. God will bless you when people insult you and say cruel things about you, all because you are a follower of the Son of Man! Long ago your own people did these same things to the prophets.

'So when this happens to you, be happy and jump for joy! You will have a great reward in heaven.'

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17:7-8

The Lord blesses everyone who honestly trusts him. They are like trees growing beside a stream, trees with roots that reach down to the water and have leaves that are always green. They always bear fruit and they don't worry about the lack of rain during the dry season.

PSALM

Psalm 40

Response: **Happy are they who hope in the Lord.**

I patiently waited, Lord, for you to hear my prayer.

You listened, and you let me stand on a rock with my feet firm. **R**

You gave me a new song, a song of praise to you.

Many will see this, and they will honour and trust you, the Lord God. **R**

I am poor and needy, but, Lord God, you care about me,
and you come to my rescue. Please hurry and help. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Brothers and sisters: If we preach that Christ was raised from death, how can some of you say that the dead will not be raised to life? If the dead won't be raised to life, Christ was not raised to life.

Unless Christ was raised to life, your faith is useless, and you are still living in your sins. And those people who died after putting their faith in him are completely lost.

If our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are worse off than anyone else. But Christ has been raised to life! And he makes us certain that others will also be raised to life.

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

Jeremiah's verses present the image of the flourishing tree planted beside the stream, bearing green leaves and fruit. Luke also presents an image – one that is opposed to that which the world teaches: that it is the poor and needy who are truly blessed. Luke tells us who is present at this gathering; the newly formed twelve apostles as well as many other disciples who had witnessed the miracles and healings Jesus had performed. With them were many who were simply curious. Luke is interested in the lived experience of those who are present: those who are physically poor, hungry, suffering. It is they who are marginalized by the society of the day, and they to whom this sermon brings very specific good news. Those people in power are however threatened by Jesus' message, which challenges the very things that society regards as essential to happiness. Luke proposes that material poverty leads us to greater detachment from the things of this world, thereby allowing us to attach ourselves to spiritual values.

Images from the Readings

- *Trees beside a stream*
- *Fruit bearing*
- *Certainty of resurrection*
- *God will bless you*
- *Be happy and jump for joy!*

Reflection for Leaders

The beatitudes confront us with choices concerning temporal or earthly possessions. They challenge us to purify our hearts, to embrace the values of God that are completely opposed to those of the world. The things that we think we need to be happy and successful are exposed as being of no value at all in God's economy. The beatitudes provide us with the heart of the Christian way of life. It takes complete trust to live the beatitudes. Jesus is asking us for that complete trust in God, no matter what our condition in life.

What does the church teach us about worldly wealth and the responsibilities required of those who have an abundance of it? Social justice teachings of the church have been consistently forthcoming in the past hundred years – they remind us that the teachings of Jesus were not just for that time, but for all time. Jesus is addressing us with the challenge of his teaching. How does this make you feel?

Jesus did not say that it was wrong to own things, have enough to eat or a comfortable home, but his sermon reminds us that this should not be our sole focus in life. What steps might you take this week to focus more attention on spiritual values?

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 globe or a map of the world



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

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 ways lead us to happiness. Help us to bring your hope and happiness to a hopeless world.

R Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:7-8

(if used)

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

Psalms 40

Response: **Happy are they who hope in the Lord.**
or **Alleluia!**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

(if used)

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

D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ 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: Luke 6:17, 20-23

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

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.*

- What are the things that make us happy? Are these the same things that Jesus was teaching about in the Gospel today?
- Who were the people that Jesus was speaking to?
- Where was he when he gave this teaching? We call it 'the sermon on the Mount' because the people had gathered on the hillside.
- What Jesus was telling his disciples was opposite to what people believe, even today. Jesus does not say that it is wrong to own nice things, have plenty to eat and a comfortable home. What is important is that this mustn't be our primary goal in life.
- If we have these things, what do you think Jesus wants us to do with them? (Share with others who don't have enough)
- Is it easy to share our things?
- What does this tell us about God and the way we are to live?

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 think of places in the world where people are poor, hungry or suffering in some way.

Pray for them.



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 confidence and faith, we bring all our needs to our compassionate God:

- For the Church - Pope Francis, bishops, priests and lay people – who work towards bringing the good news to all 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 from war, famine and sickness
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those who are poor, hungry, sad or rejected, that they will find your lasting happiness Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
That we will have the perseverance to withstand insults and cruel words because of our faith Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of love, bless your children and 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.

