



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

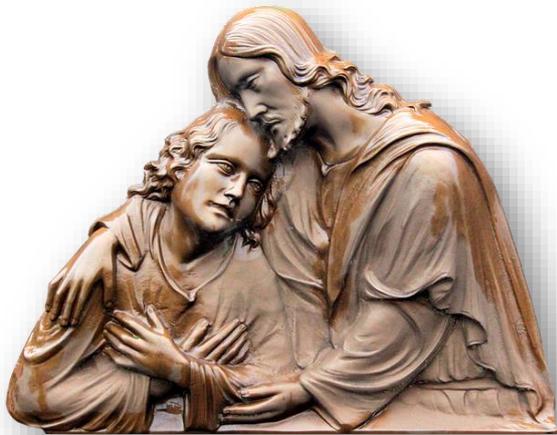
Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

*Green*

*'Be merciful as your Father is merciful'*

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 Psalm 103 Luke 6:27-37



*Today's reading continues the story of Jesus teaching the people that we began last Sunday. In it Jesus tells us to love our enemies and do good to those who are cruel to us. Why does he tell us to do this? What does this tell us about what God is like, and what God expects of us?*

### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Seventh 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 6:27-37

Jesus said to the disciples: "This is what I say to all who will listen to me: Love your enemies, and be good to everyone who hates you. Ask God to bless anyone who curses you, and pray for everyone who is cruel to you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, don't stop that person from slapping you on the other cheek. If someone wants to take your coat, don't try to keep back your shirt. Give to everyone who asks and don't ask people to return what they have taken from you. Treat others just as you want to be treated.

"If you love only someone who loves you, will God praise you for that? Even sinners love people who love them. If you are kind only to someone who is kind to you, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners are kind to people who are kind to them. If you lend money only to someone you think will pay you back, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners lend

to sinners because they think they will get it all back. But love your enemies and be good to them. Lend without expecting to be paid back. Then you will get a great reward, and you will be the true children of God in heaven. He is good even to people who are unthankful and cruel. "Have pity on others, just as your Father has pity on you. Don't judge others, and God will not judge you. Don't be hard on others, and God will not be hard on you. Forgive others, and God will forgive you."

## FIRST READING

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

One day Saul took three thousand of his best soldiers and went to look for David in the desert near Zith. That night David and Abishai went into the camp. Saul was sleeping with his spear stuck in the ground near his head, while Abner and the soldiers were sleeping all around him. Abishai whispered to David, "This time God has given you the chance to kill your enemy. I'll pin him to the ground with his own sword, and I won't have to try but once."

David whispered back, "Don't kill him! The Lord will punish anyone who kills his chosen king." David took the spear and the water jar, and then the two men left. None of Saul's soldiers knew what had happened or even woke up, because the Lord had made them all fall sound asleep.

David and Abishai crossed the valley and went to the top of the hill, where they were at a safe distance. David said, "Your Majesty, here is your spear. Have one of your young men come and get it. The Lord put you in my power today. But you are his chosen king, and I refused to harm you, because the Lord rewards people who are honest and faithful."

## PSALM

Psalm 103

Response: **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

With all my heart I praise the Lord,  
and with all that I am I praise his holy name!  
With all my heart I praise the Lord!

I will never forget how kind he has been. **R**

The Lord forgives our sins, heals us when we are sick.  
Just as parents are kind to their children,  
the Lord is kind to all who worship him. **R**

**No Second Reading in the Lectionary for Masses with Children today.**

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

King Saul is jealous of David, who is young and popular, and in his determination to kill David, he pursues him relentlessly. David spends many years on the run in the desert and wilderness regions of Zith. It is during this time that he writes many of the Psalms we are so familiar with. In our first reading today Saul is delivered into David's hands. However David opts to be merciful to his sworn enemy and allows God to mete out the justice to Saul. David is seen as a prefiguration of Jesus.

Today's Gospel continues on from that of last week. By providing practical details of how we are to behave, it contains the most challenging and difficult concept of Christian living for us to live out – love for those who are against us, and forgiveness of those who hurt us. The Beatitudes call us to a radical reversal of response to situations in our life – a response that turns our human nature upside down. God's way is a complete reverse to the world's way.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *The Lord put you in my power*
- *The Lord rewards the honest and faithful*
- *Love your enemies*
- *Even sinners do that*
- *True children of God*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

For David to act in an unforgiving way would have been to act against the ways of God. At times the ways of God seem to be diametrically opposed to human nature, so we must choose to act as God teaches us. It is the same measure that we give that will be given back to us, no matter how hard this might seem. However what Jesus is suggesting is no mere passive inaction – it is a demanding and radical action. Jesus is the self-revelation of God, and God's actions in and for the world. Followers of Jesus must act in these ways precisely because they are the ways of God. Can you think of an experience you had of being misjudged or wronged? How did you feel? How did your attitude affect your response to the situation?

What activities do you participate in which promote harmony, tolerance and understanding in your community?

What is the most challenging aspect of today's gospel for you?

In what ways have you experienced God's mercy yourself?

During the week, reflect on the words of the 'Our Father' and pray for someone who has mistreated you in some way.

## *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



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Seventh 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, you treat us with kindness and compassion. Help us to love each other and be forgiving even when we are hurt.

**R** Amen.

### First Reading: *1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23*

(if used)

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

### *Psalm 138*

**Response:** In the sight of angels, I will sing your praises Lord  
or Alleluia!

No Second Reading today.



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: Luke 6:27-37

**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.*

- If someone hits you, what do you feel like doing to them? What does Jesus say we should do?
- What about if someone takes something that belongs to you?
- If someone says horrible things about you, how do you want to treat them? What does Jesus say to do?
- Often it is people who are hurting themselves who can be really mean to us. We know that God loves everyone, and sometimes we have to be the people who are good and show God's love to those who may never see that love anywhere else.
- God doesn't only love nice people. What kind of people does Jesus want us to be kind to?
- Sometimes it can be really hard to live the way Jesus wants us to. But we can ask God for help when we need it. Explain how the 'Our Father' prayer gives us a good model for forgiveness. We can reaffirm the action God wants each time we say it.

**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*

Teach the children the Our Father:

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be they name,  
thy kingdom come,  
they will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## *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 hope and faith, we come to our compassionate God for all our needs:

- For the Church in Aotearoa-New Zealand and our own parish, that her leaders always act with integrity, honesty and generosity 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 cruelty and violence Let us pray to the Lord  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we treat other people with kindness and forgiveness Let us pray to the Lord  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we learn to share what we have with those who have less 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, teach us your ways so we can treat others as you have shown us.  
We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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



# Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

## Chorus play

Luke 6: 27-37

Love and be loved

**Note to leaders:** This reflection works best with a large group of children. You will need to prepare several signs which individual children hold up for the group to read at the appropriate time. The 'Chorus' group could be a separate group of children or the whole group.

**Reader:** This is what Jesus wants us to do:

**Sign 1:** LOVE OUR ENEMIES.

**Sign 2:** BE GOOD TO EVERYONE.

**Sign 3:** PRAY FOR EVERYONE.

**Sign 4:** SHARE OUR POSSESSIONS.

**Sign 5:** TREAT OTHERS AS WE WANT TO BE TREATED.

**Reader:** What's the good of loving only those who love you?

**Chorus:** ANYONE can do that. Will God be pleased with that?

**Reader:** What's the good of being kind only to other kind people?

**Chorus:** ANYONE can do that. Will God be pleased with that?

**Reader:** What's the good of lending money only to people who will return it?

**Chorus:** ANYONE can do that. Will God be pleased with that?

**Reader:** This is what Jesus wants us to do:

**Sign 1:** LOVE OUR ENEMIES.

**Sign 2:** GIVE GENEROUSLY.

**Sign 3:** CARE ABOUT PEOPLE.

**Sign 4:** DON'T JUDGE.

**Sign 5:** FORGIVE EVERYONE.

**Reader:** This is what Jesus wants us to do!

*From 'Just Imagine 3, Even More 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.*