



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *Third Sunday of Easter - Year C*

*White*

### *'Going Fishing'*

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41 Psalm 30 John 21:1-14



What made Peter recognise Jesus that day? Finding their net full of fish after a useless night's fishing was a miracle, and only the Son of God had the power to work such a miracle. Jesus prepared breakfast on the beach to share with his friends. Can you think of a time that we gather together for a special meal where Jesus comes to share himself with us? (The Mass)

### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Third Sunday of Easter, 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*

John 21:1-14

Jesus later appeared to his disciples along the shore of Lake Tiberias. Simon Peter, Thomas the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, and the two sons of Zebedee, were there, together with two other disciples. Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing!"

The others said, "We'll go with you." They went out in their boat. But they didn't catch a thing that night.

Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise who he was. Jesus shouted, "Friends, have you caught anything?"

"No!" they answered.

So he told them, "Let your net down on the right side of your boat, and you will catch some fish." They did, and the net was so full of fish that they could not drag it up into the boat.

Jesus' favourite disciple told Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon heard that it was the Lord, he put on the clothes that he had taken off while he was working. Then he jumped into the water. The boat was only about a hundred yards from shore. So the other disciples stayed in the boat and dragged in the net full of fish.

When the disciples got out of the boat, they saw some bread and a charcoal fire with fish on it. Jesus told his disciples, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." Simon Peter got back into the boat and dragged the net to shore. In it were one hundred and fifty-three large fish, but still the net did not rip.

Jesus said, "Come and eat!" But none of the disciples dared ask who he was. They knew he was the Lord. Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave some of it to his disciples. He did the same with the fish.

This was the third time that Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from death.

## *FIRST READING*

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

The high priest said to the apostles, "We told you plainly not to teach in the name of Jesus. But look what you have done! You have been teaching all over Jerusalem, and you are trying to blame us for his death."

Peter and the apostles replied: "We don't obey people. We obey God. You killed Jesus by nailing him to a cross. But the God our ancestors worshipped raised him to life and make him our Leader and Saviour. Then God gave him a place at his right side, so that the people of Israel would turn back to him and be forgiven. We are here to tell you about all this, and so is the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to everyone who obeys God."

They had the apostles beaten with a whip and warned them not to speak in the name of Jesus. Then they let them go. The apostles left the council and were happy, because God had considered them worthy to suffer for the sake of Jesus

## *PSALM*

Psalm 30

**Response:** I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me

I will praise you, Lord! You saved me from the grave.

I prayed to you, Lord God, and you healed me.

Your faithful people, Lord, will praise you with songs  
and honour your holy name. **R**

Have pity, Lord! Help! You have turned my sorrow into joyful dancing.

I will never stop singing your praises, my Lord and my God. **R**

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

The Gospel account of a miraculous catch of fish coincides with the third appearance of the risen Christ to his disciples. These seven disciples had returned to Galilee and resumed their former occupations. Recognition of Jesus comes through his actions, not his words - although they still are tempted to ask who he was while somehow knowing his identity. A fruitless night's fishing yields the miraculous catch of 153 fish once they had obeyed Jesus' instructions. The Greek word for fish, 'ichthys', is an acronym of 'Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour'. The fish was an early symbol of Christianity, and is often seen today used as car ornaments. The boat is also an ancient image of the Church. The symbolism of the enormous catch indicates the success of the disciples in leading people to Christ. Peter again takes a primary role in this interchange – jumping into the water to rush to Jesus while the others stay to drag the net in. Jesus already has prepared bread and a charcoal fire grilling fish to feed his friends, obviously symbolic of Eucharist. Jesus still nourishes his disciples.

The first reading presents to us the transformed disciples, courageously defending themselves after having been caught publicly preaching. Their fearless response earns them a flogging, yet leaves them elated – they rejoice in having suffered in Jesus' name.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *Let down your net*
- *So many fish*
- *Come and eat*
- *We obey God*
- *Gift of the Spirit to all who obey God*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

The experience of the early church begs us to reflect upon our own experience of having the Lord active in our lives, and what we are able to achieve or stand up to that we were not able to before? Have there been times in our life when we have had the courage to 'go overboard' for Jesus? Have we had moments of recognition that Jesus has been with us all the time? What has prevented us being able to make that connection earlier? As the breakfast on the beach nourished the disciples, how does the Eucharist continue to nourish those who follow the risen Lord? How have we met the commitment that discipleship calls us to?

How can we act on that this week?

## *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:

*White cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a net, bread, and sticks arranged like a campfire with a scrunch of red cellophane to indicate flames*



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Third Sunday of Easter, 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 are all around us in the world you have created. Help us to recognise you and to care for your creation.

**R** Amen.

*First Reading: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41*

*(if used)*

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

*Psalm 30*

**Response:** I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me  
*(or another suitable response known by the children)*

Easter: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Je - sus is ri - sen from death.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the light of the world.

### *Gospel: John 21:1-14*

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

**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.*

- This story tells of Jesus' love and concern for his friends. Who went fishing?
- Why do you think they decided to go fishing that night?
- Did they catch anything?
- Who called out to them? What did he tell them to do? Do you think they were happy to do it?
- What happened then?
- When did they recognise that it was Jesus?
- What did Peter do when he heard that it was Jesus?
- Why did Jesus make breakfast on the beach for his friends?
- Can you think of a time that we share a meal with Jesus? (When we celebrate Mass, we gather together for a special meal where Jesus shares himself in a special way)

**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*

Saying/singing a blessing at meals is an act of worship.  
This can be sung to the tune of 'Frere Jacques'

God, we thank you (x2)  
For this food (x2)  
All of us together (x2)  
Thank you, God (x2)



## *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:** This Easter time, encouraged by God’s Word that we have just heard, we turn to our Creator for all our needs:

- For those who are leaders in the Church, that they exercise integrity and faith as they serve the people of God Let us pray to the Lord

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

- For strength and comfort for all those who suffer for their faith  
Let us pray to the Lord

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

- That we be filled with courage to live the way that Jesus showed us...  
Let us pray to the Lord

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

- For the openness to recognise Jesus in all situations and all people...  
Let us pray to the Lord

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

**Leader:** God, who is always present, renew our Easter joy and grant what we need.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Amen**

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



# Third Sunday of Easter, Year C

*Liquid Pictures*

John 21:1-14

Going Fishing!

**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: Some time after Jesus had died and risen, he appeared to his disciples on the shore of Lake Tiberius.

What are you doing boys?

Fishing! What else?

Caught anything?

Out all night and not one fish!

Throw your nets on the other side of the boat!

Fish galore! Fish GALORE!

Come and eat!

Leader: Trust God – God never fails!



*From 'Just Imagine 3, Even more Creative ways of presenting Scripture for people of all ages' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, [www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au](http://www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au). Available from the Liturgy Centre.*