



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Pentecost Sunday, Year C

'Receive the Holy Spirit'

Red

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104

1 Cor 12:4-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23



Why had the disciples locked themselves in a room? When Jesus appeared in the middle of the group, how did they feel? How did Jesus give them the Holy Spirit? What was the gift of the Holy Spirit going to enable them to do? When do we receive the Holy Spirit in a special way? – first at our baptism, and then his power is refreshed in us at confirmation. Pentecost is known as the Church's birthday. Why do you think this is so?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for Pentecost Sunday, 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 20:19-23



The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his sides. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy.

After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven."

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak. Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages. They were excited and amazed, and said: "Don't all these who are speaking come from Galilee? Then why do we each hear them speaking our very own languages? Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, Crete, and Arabia. Some of us were born Jews, and others of us have chosen to be Jews. Yet we all hear them using our own languages to tell the wonderful things God has done."

PSALM

Psalm 104

Response: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth

I praise you, Lord God, with all my heart. You are glorious and majestic.
Our Lord, by your wisdom you made so many things;
the whole earth is covered with your living creatures.

You created all of them by your Spirit, and you give new life to the earth.
Our Lord, we pray that your glory will last for ever,
that you will be pleased with what you have done.

SECOND READING

1 Cor 12:4-7, 12-13

Brothers and sisters: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.

The body of Christ has many different parts, just as any other body does. Some of us are Jews, and others are Gentiles. Some of us are slaves, and others are free. But God's Spirit baptized each of us and made us part of the body of Christ. Now we each drink from that same Spirit.

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

Pentecost was a Jewish feast day celebrated fifty days after Passover. This is why so many were in Jerusalem at the time that the Holy Spirit was manifested in the lives of the disciples. It might be expected that the absence of Jesus would have relegated the newly formed gathering of believers to collapse and dissipate, and we know from Scripture that at least some of them had left Jerusalem to return to their homes. But despite their anxiety and sense of having been left behind, a group of about one hundred and twenty believers had gathered to pray in the upper room together. Jesus appears among them offering his greeting of peace and the opportunity to confirm his presence by examining his wounds. The conferring of the Holy Spirit is as intimate as a hongi, as Jesus breathes life back into his fearful disciples. The effect of this gentle action is nevertheless powerful, and in fact reverses the story of the tower of Babel from Hebrew Scriptures, when the languages of people were confused. Filled with courage and fervour the disciples are to go out and continue Jesus' work of forgiveness, judgement, and witness in the world. The Spirit will teach them new things, lead them deeper into the mystery of Jesus and help them to understand the things to come as they take up the challenges that lie ahead.

Images from the Readings

- Locked in a room, afraid
- Jesus breathed on them
- Sound of a mighty wind
- Holy Spirit took control of everyone
- Different gifts and different ways to serve

Reflection for Leaders

Coming to faith is a journey for most of us as we discover God's existence within the realities of our life experiences. This happens mainly through prayer and reflection. Just as the disciples gathered together to pray when they were anxious, so it is important for us to gather with our faith community to share the highs and the lows of our journey. Regular time to pray alone, to pray in community and time to reflect will pay dividends for us. Fear had caused the believers to lock themselves away. Can you recall a time when you have felt 'closed in' with a problem? What helped to free you from this? When Jesus appeared and breathed the Holy Spirit into his friends, this experience that was totally life changing for you? How do you use the Spiritual gifts you have been given in service of others? What fruits of the spirit are manifest most in those closest to you? This week work on those gifts that are most neglected in yourself.

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

Red cloth, Lectionary, seven red candles



LITURGY OUTLINE

Pentecost Sunday

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 give us the gift of your Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with your love. Help us to bring Jesus to those who do not know him, and share this love with them.

R Amen.

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

(if used)

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

Psalms 104

Response: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth

(or another suitable response known by the children)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-13

(if used)

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



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 20:19-21

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, to stimulate ideas:*

- How do you suppose the disciples were feeling on this day of Pentecost having locked themselves in a room? How did they feel when Jesus suddenly appeared among them? What did Jesus want them to do?
- Do you remember hearing this is the same message in another story we heard, not so long ago?
- How did Jesus give the Holy Spirit to the disciples? (he breathed on them) Why do you think he did this? (We need breath to live; wind, or the breath of God, is one of the images of the Holy Spirit)
- Can you think of any other images of the Holy Spirit? (Flame, dove, wind...) what do you think these tell us about the Holy Spirit?

- How do we receive the Holy Spirit today? (in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation)
- What does the Holy Spirit do in us, or allow us to do? (Speak of the empowering and enlivening of our lives and faith, the gifts of the Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and the fear of the Lord) and the fruit of the Spirit Gal 5:22)
- Why does Jesus talk to his friends about forgiveness?
- What do you think Jesus wants us to do? Explore ways on which the children can forgive others. Help them to see that truly, if we (they) forgive someone, that person feels forgiven. If we refuse this, that person feels unforgiven. Perhaps the children can offer examples of this in their own lives. Help them to see that when we live this new way, we truly give “ new life to the earth” (psalm)

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



Sing a simple “Spirit” song, like “Holy Spirit come”.
When re-joining the assembly, process the children in with the seven candles and place before the altar.
(NB check this out with the priest beforehand)

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

Leader: God you gave us the gift of your Spirit. Kindly watch over us your children, and those for whom we pray:

- That the Spirit of God will fill the Church and set on fire the hearts of all who work to spread the Gospel of Jesus.

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

- That the fruit of the Spirit is seen at work in us, in the ordinariness of our daily lives – love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control.

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

- For peace in our families, our school rooms, our communities

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

- For all who are alone and hopeless, the sick and those who are hurting, that they will be comforted.

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

Leader: God of hope and healing, we know that you care for us and we bring our prayers to you in confidence through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

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



Pentecost Sunday

Echo Mime

John 20:19-23

Receive the Holy Spirit

Note to Leaders: *This echo mime combines the use of SIGNS and SOUND EFFECTS. At various points the echo Mime, a sign indicating a **sound** is held up and read by all children. As well as a leader, there would also need to be another child whose sole job is to hold up the signs at the appropriate time. Ensure signs are large enough for all children to read easily.*

Signs required:

Ooh!

Yeah!

Peace be with you!

Wow!

A reading from God's Word

Hands open as in reading a book

The disciples were afraid

Hands crossed in front of body

Of the Jewish leaders

Sign: Ooh!

So they hid

Hands over eyes

Until

One finger in the air, palm away from body

One day

One finger in the air, palm away from body
(use other hand)

Jesus appeared

Sign: Yeah!

And said ...

Sign: Peace be with you

Then he showed them his hands

Hold out hands

And his side.

Point to your side

The disciples were delighted

Sign: Yeah!

To see Jesus

Wave hand excitedly in the air

Who said again ...

Sign: Peace be with you

He gave them the Holy Spirit

Sign: Wow!

And sent them out

Pointing action

To forgive sins.

Hands crossed in front of chest.

A reading from God's word

Hands open as in reading a book

From 'Just Imagine 3, Even more Creative ways of presenting Scripture...' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre