



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Saints Peter and Paul

Red

The Lord stood beside me to give me the strength to tell his full message.

Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34; 2 Timothy 4:17-18; Matthew 16:13-19

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. It was through Peter's witness and Paul's preaching that the Church came into being. Together, they were the greatest leaders of the early Church.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul, starting with the Gospel. Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-19

When Jesus and his disciples were near the town of Caesarea Phillippi, he asked them, "What do people say about the Son of Man?" The disciples answered, "Some people say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah or Jeremiah or some other prophet."

Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus told him, "Simon, son of Jonah, you are blessed! You didn't discover this on your own. It was shown to you by my Father in heaven. So I will call you Peter, which means, 'rock'. On this rock I will build my Church, and death itself will not have any power over it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and God in heaven will allow whatever you allow on earth. But he will not allow anything that you do not allow.

FIRST READING

Acts 12:1-11

King Herod caused terrible suffering for some members of the church. He ordered soldiers to cut off the head of James, the brother of John. When Herod saw that this pleased the Jewish people, he had Peter arrested during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. He put Peter in jail and ordered four squads of soldiers to guard him. Herod planned to put him on trial in public, after the feast. While Peter was kept in jail, the church never stopped praying for him.

The night before Peter was put on trial, he was asleep and bound by two chains. A soldier was guarding him on each side, and two other soldiers were guarding the entrance to the jail. Suddenly, an angel from the Lord appeared, and light shone in the cell. The angel poked Peter in the side and woke him up. Then he said, "Quick! Get up!"

The chains fell off his wrists, and the angel said, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." Peter did as he was told. The angel said, "Now put on your cloak and follow me." Peter left with the angel, but he thought everything was only a dream. They went past the two groups of soldiers, and when they came to the iron gate leading into the city, it opened by itself. They went out and were going along the street, when all at once the angel disappeared.

Peter now realized what had happened, and he said, "I am certain that the Lord sent his angel to rescue me from Herod and from everything the Jewish leaders planned to do to me."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 34

Response: The Lord set me free from all my fears!

Honour the Lord with me! Celebrate his great name.

I asked the Lord for help, and he saved me from all my fears. **R**

Keep your eyes on the Lord! You will shine like the sun and never blush with shame.

I was a nobody, but I prayed, and the Lord saved me from all my troubles. **R**

If you honour the Lord, his angel will protect you. Discover for yourself that the Lord is kind.

Come to him for protection, and you will be glad. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 4:17-18

The Lord stood beside me. He gave me the strength to tell his full message, so that all Gentiles would hear it. And I was kept safe from hungry lions.

The Lord will always keep me from being harmed by evil, and he will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. Praise him forever and ever! Amen.

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

A solemnity is a principal day in the life of the Church, and holds the highest rank in the liturgical calendar. A solemnity eclipses all other feasts and memorials, and when a solemnity falls on a Sunday it replaces the ordinary celebration of the day.

The earliest “Roman” Calendar we have, dates back to 350AD and mentions this feast being celebrated on the 29 June. This feast spread rapidly through Africa in to rest of Christendom becoming a universal feast. For hundreds of years then the feast of Sts Peter and Paul has been celebrated, numerous churches and schools have been built in their honour. Yet, interestingly, in their life and ministry, the two saints were not involved all that closely. Why then are their memorials celebrated together? It is because Peter and Paul are considered to be the two pillars of the Church. Peter – the shepherd of the flock who governed from his ‘chair’ in Rome, and Paul, the ‘Apostle to the nations’ who travelled all over the world, founding communities of faith, encouraging and building them up by his letters and his visits. These two men were the greatest leaders of the early church.

Images from the Readings

- Honour the Lord
- His angel will protect you
- On this rock I will build my Church
- Keys to the kingdom of heaven

Reflection for Leaders

This Solemnity reminds us of the need for diversity in vocations and ministry in the church. Neither of these two leaders could have achieved what they did without the help and assistance of numerous other women and men beside them.

Spend some time this week reflecting on how you use your different gifts and talents – are there some new ways you could put them to use in the service of God?



Reflecting on the Readings with the children

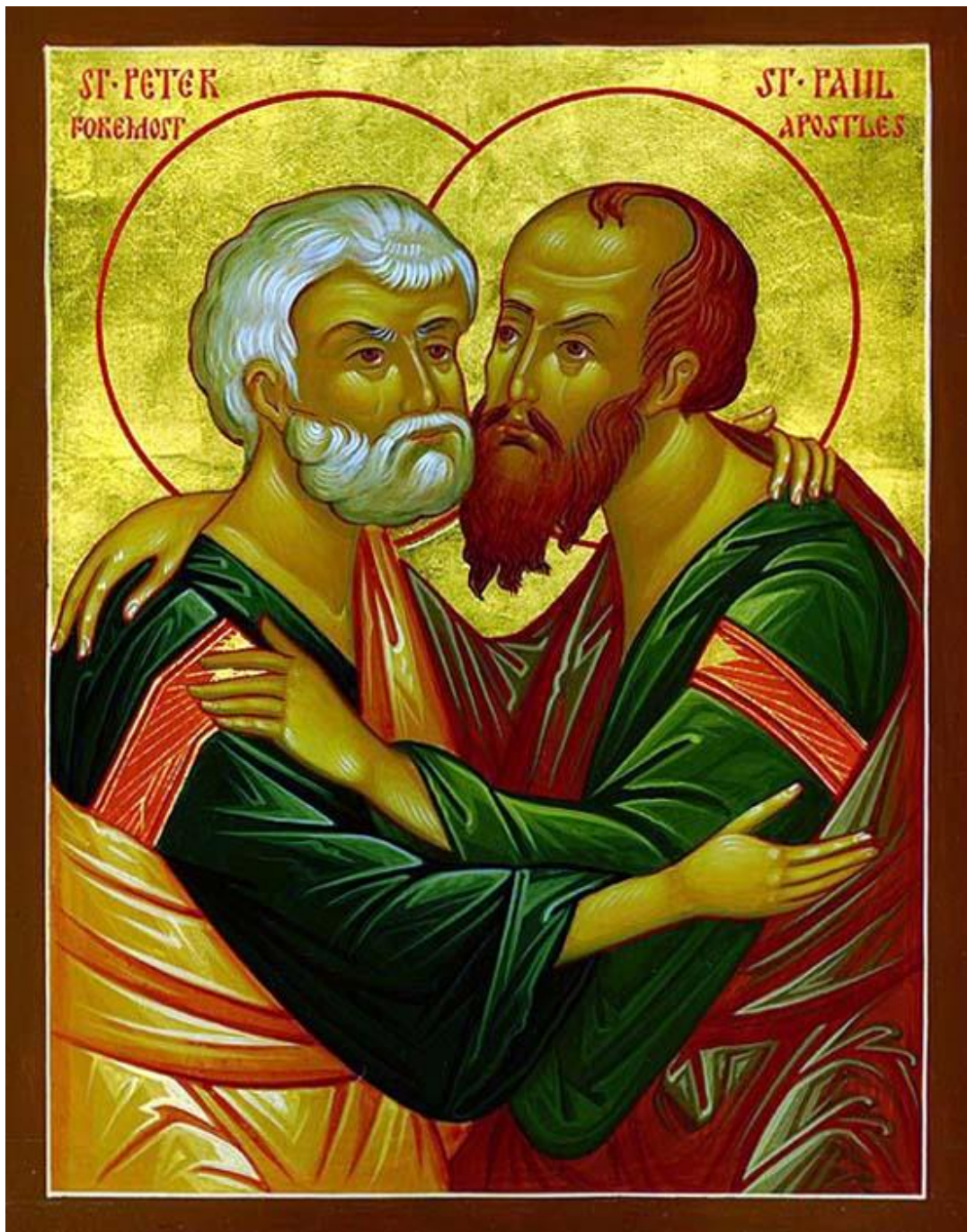
Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline. With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

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:

Red cloth, Lectionary, statues or images of St Peter and St Paul. Prepare paper and pens for the children to write their prayers (see Liturgical Action)



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul,

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

procession for their

I invite the children to join in the
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, today you give us the joy of celebrating the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul. Through them your Church first received the faith. Keep us true to their teaching.

R Amen.

First Reading: Acts 12:1-11

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

Responsorial: 34 (if used)

Response: The Lord set me free from all my fears.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:17-18

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: Matthew 16:13-19

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

- Before Peter became a great leader in the church what did he do? (He was a fisherman and a disciple of Jesus)
- Did Peter always do the right thing? (No – he sometimes made mistakes. His faith failed him when he tried to walk on water. He denied Jesus three times.) What does this tell us about the people God chooses to do great things for him? (He chooses people who are willing to learn and to try new things; who are willing to say sorry and learn from their mistakes. He chooses people who truly want to do God’s will and he gives these people the help they need.)
- Who knows what St Paul did before he became an apostle? (He was a religious leader who hated the Christians and persecuted them)
- What made Paul change his life so drastically? (You may need to recount the story of Paul’s conversion if the children are unfamiliar with it)
- What does this tell us about the people God chooses to do great things for him? (God will work hard to get people to listen to his call. He is willing to forgive people who have done serious harm to others if they are willing to change and to learn to think and act differently.)

- Paul became a great preacher, travelling all over the world to build new Christian communities. He wrote many letters and visited these new churches to help them grow strong in their faith. We still listen to his letters being read to us on Sundays.
- We may never be great and powerful by the world's standards, we might never become the Prime Minister, or the boss of a big company, but if we listen to God and do what he asks, we, like St Peter and St Paul can achieve great things for God. Without St Peter and St Paul the Church never would have grown as it has. Maybe one day you will be a leader in the Church or take the message of Jesus to people in foreign lands like St Peter and St Paul.

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

Ask the children to write a prayer asking St Peter or St Paul for a special intention, e.g. St Peter, please pray for my Mum that she will get better soon.

Encourage them to pray this prayer every night for the coming week.

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 with all our needs:

- For the Church, built on Peter's faith and formed by Paul's preaching, that it may be a light to all people and show them the way to God

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**

or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For those who take the Gospel to foreign lands, may they have courage and strength

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**

or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For those who help the poor and the lonely, and who befriend people when their loved ones have died, may they be encouraged to keep reaching out

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**

or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For those who have died, that they may have eternal life with Christ

Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**

Or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of compassion, give us the faith and courage of Peter and Paul and help us in our own way to carry the Word of God to others. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

The children rejoin the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.