



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green

“This is the Lamb of God”

Isaiah 49:3,5-6, Psalm 40, John 1:29-34

God sent a sign so that John would know who the chosen one was that the people were to follow. John had been preparing the people, but John’s work was coming to an end. Do you know what this sign was? There was another occasion when the Holy Spirit appeared in a different form. Do you know when that was? John had a special name for the chosen one, the ‘Lamb of God’. What does this name mean?



Leader’s Preparation

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

John 1:29-34

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said: “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the one I told you about when I said, ‘Someone else will come. He is greater than I am, because he was alive before I was born.’

“I didn’t know who he was. But I came to baptise you with water, so that everyone in Israel would see him.

“I was there and saw the Spirit come down on him like a dove from heaven. And the Spirit stayed on him. Before this I didn’t know who he was. But the one who sent me to baptise with water had told me, ‘You will see the Spirit come down and stay on someone. Then you will know that he is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.’

“I saw this happen, and I tell you that he is the Son of God.”

FIRST READING

Isaiah 49:3,5-6

The Lord said to me, "Israel, you are my servant, and because of you I will be highly honoured."

Even before I was born, the Lord chose me to serve him and to bring back the people of Israel. The Lord God has honoured me and made me strong.

Now the Lord says to me, "It isn't enough for you to be merely my servant. You must do more than lead back those from the tribes of Israel who have survived. I have placed you here as a light for the Gentiles. You are to take my saving power everywhere on earth."

PSALM

Psalm 40

Response: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

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

You listened and you gave me a new song, a song of praise to you. **R**

"I enjoy pleasing you. Your law is in my heart."

You, Lord, never fail to have pity on me;

Your love and faithfulness always keep me secure. **R**

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

Perfect first-born male lambs were slain as part of the Passover sacrifice; their blood had been sprinkled over the doorposts so that the angel of death would 'pass over' the people of Israel. Each year the Jewish people would celebrate this 'Passover' in remembrance. So images of Passover sacrifices would have been vividly evocative for those to whom John was speaking. The term 'Lamb of God' referred to the sacrificial nature of Jesus' mission, though not yet revealed as such until now.

John the Baptist struggles to recognise Jesus, yet he declares that he is a witness to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God - this truth having been revealed as Jesus was being baptised. The baptism of Jesus has not been recorded in John's Gospel but is alluded to in this testimony. Despite his closeness to Jesus, John is in much the same position as we are – twice he states that he didn't know who he was, yet his conviction is strong and so he still points others towards Jesus.

Images from the Readings

- Here is the Lamb of God
- He is greater than I am
- Baptise with the Holy Spirit
- You are a light for the Gentiles
- Take my saving power everywhere

Reflection for Leaders

It is a quiet time of the year for us in most parishes. The school year has not yet begun and many people are still on summer holidays. Take time to reflect on our relationship with Jesus during this holiday time, and the struggles that we have to recognise him. We cannot ever physically know Jesus in the usual human sense. Like all human experience, physical knowledge of a person is limited unless there is a very intimate relationship involved. Our relationship with Jesus must come under the spotlight today, as we examine in what ways we do know him; this might be through his presence in the Church, in the Scriptures, in the care and concern of people in our community, in our prayer, and in the action of the Liturgy.

Think about which of these is the most vibrant form of 'presence' for you. John's mission, as ours is, was to point Jesus out to the people. Who pointed Jesus out to you? In what way could you point him out to others? During this week, share something of your journey of faith with someone else.

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'.

With both age groups you may also choose to use the 'Chorus Play' on page 8 to reinforce the Gospel message.

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 bowl of water with sprig of greenery.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

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 sent us your Holy Spirit to guide us and protect us always. Help us to remember that your spirit is with us in all that we do.

R Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalms 40

(if used)

Response: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

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: John 1:29-34

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**

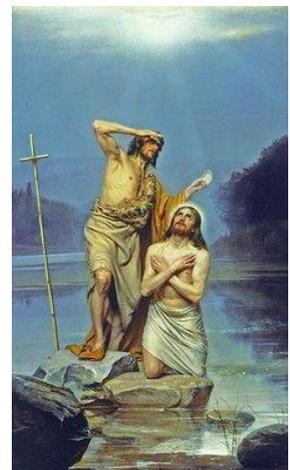
At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

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 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.

- Who is it who is speaking of Jesus? (John the Baptist)
- Did you notice what special names John gave to Jesus? ('Lamb of God' and 'Son of God')
- Do you know why John called Jesus the 'Lamb of God'? (The Jews used a perfect lamb as a sacrifice for their sins. John's words show us that Jesus' death was to take the place of these sacrifices for our sins forever)
- Do you remember a special time in the Mass when we say or sing about the Lamb of God? (just before Communion time)
- John had been preparing the people for the one who was to come after him. How did he know that this was Jesus? (the Spirit came down on him like a dove when he was baptised)
- What do you think John meant when he said '... he will baptise with the Holy Spirit.' ?



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

Both older and younger children come together for the liturgical action this week.

Hold the bowl of water and bless it, saying: “Blessed are you, God of all creation. We take this water, symbol of our baptism, and give you thanks for it. You have given us a share in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ. You have created us in his image and made us temples of your Spirit.” Using the sprig of greenery, sprinkle the children, who can then make the sign of the cross as they feel the drops of water. Say the ‘Lamb of God’ together.



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 Īnoīnga 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: God knows our needs and listens to our prayers, so let us pray in confidence:

- That the church be a place of justice and mercy, peace and harmony
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 live by hope and encourage each other
Let us pray to the Lord **R** Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the courage to share our faith with others and point Jesus out
Let us pray to the Lord **R** Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That people everywhere learn to live with fairness
Let us pray to the Lord **R** Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For an attitude of openness to listen to prophetic people who sometimes challenge us
or make us feel uncomfortable
Let us pray to the Lord **R** Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of challenge, remove from us the things that stop us from welcoming Jesus with joy. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen.

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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Chorus Play

John 1:29-34

Lamb of God

Note to leaders: The following **chorus** plays are appropriate to use with children and young people of **any age**.

People required: **Reader, John.**

Reader: John the Baptist,

Chorus: **The one who baptised people in the River Jordan,**

Reader: Saw Jesus coming and said,

John 'It is the Lamb of God!'

Chorus: **The Lamb of God!**

John: 'The one who takes away sins!'

Chorus: **Yeah! The one who forgives our sins.**

John: 'He is greater than I am.'

Chorus: **Much greater!**

John: 'I baptise with water.'

Chorus: **Water**

John: 'But he baptises with the Holy Spirit.'

Chorus: **Yeah! The Holy Spirit!**

Reader: John the Baptist knew this because he was there when the Spirit came to Jesus.

John: 'The Spirit came down on him like a dove from heaven.'

Chorus: **God's Spirit is with Jesus.**

John: 'The Spirit stayed with Jesus'.

Chorus: **God's Spirit is always with Jesus.**

John: 'I saw this happen and I tell you that he is the Son of God!'

Chorus: **Jesus is the Son of God! Yeah!**



From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.