



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 A

Red

“As the Father sent me, so I send you.. Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:1-11, Ps 104, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-13, John 20:19-24

Today is a special feast for the Church. It is called ‘Pentecost’ which takes its name from the feast the Jews celebrated fifty days after their Passover. We celebrate it as the feast where Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to his disciples in a special way just as he had promised to do. How was the Holy Spirit to help the disciples? Pentecost is sometimes called the Birthday of the Church. Can you think why 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. This week it would be good to also focus on the First Reading from Acts as well as the Gospel - some difficult words for the cities of that time so will need to be read by an adult.) Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-24

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 side. 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 language. 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. **R**

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. **R**

Our Lord, we pray that your glory will last forever and that you will be pleased with what you have done. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 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 baptised 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 might have meant the newly formed gathering of believers would 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. 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 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 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 be fruitful. 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 was totally life changing. How has the Holy Spirit changed your life? How do you use the Spiritual gifts you have been given in service of others? What fruit 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

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:

Red cloth, Lectionary, red candle



Pentecost Sunday, 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 give us the gift of the 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.

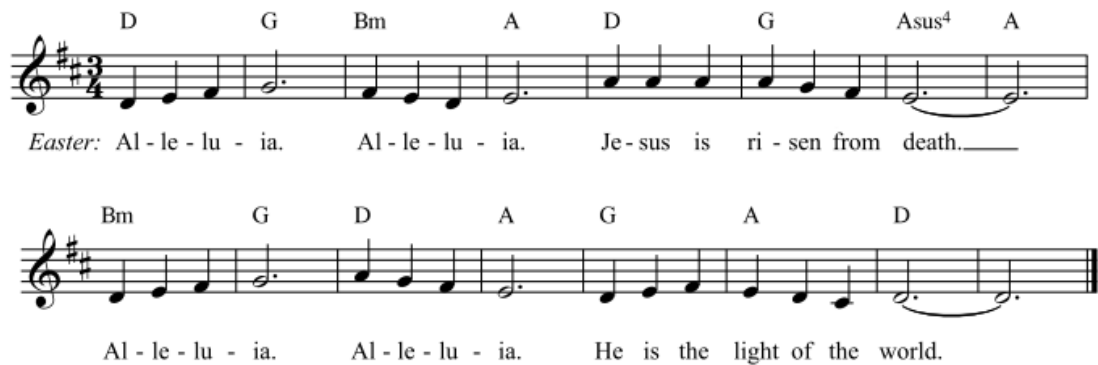
First Reading: Acts 2:1-11 The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki
Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalm 104

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


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



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

Bm G D A G A D



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

Gospel: John 20:19-24

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.*

- How do you suppose the disciples were feeling on this day of Pentecost when they were locked in a room? How did they feel when Jesus suddenly appeared among them?
- 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? (The Holy Spirit empowers us and awakens our faith.
- Do you know what the gifts of the Spirit are? (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and the fear of the Lord).



- Do you know what the fruits of the Spirit are? (Gal 5:22- *love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control*)
- Jesus talks about forgiveness. Why is forgiveness important?

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*

Take some time to ponder on the gifts that the Holy Spirit has blessed you with. Write one gift that you will focus on into the flame on page 8 and together pray the prayer for the Spirit's blessing.



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

- That the Holy Spirit will fill us and set our hearts on fire with the love of God so that we will spread the Gospel of Jesus

Let us pray to the Lord **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 our daily lives – love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control

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

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

- For forgiving hearts, so that there can be peace in our families, our school rooms, our communities

Let us pray to the Lord **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 and empowered

Let us pray to the Lord **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.

Invite the Children to write into the flame below a gift that they will focus on using today. Then read the prayer together.

