



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Trinity Sunday, Year A

White

God sent his Son to save the world through him.

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9; (Ps) Daniel 3:52, 53, 56; 2 Cor. 13:11-13; John 3:16-17

We have many different ways of relating to the people we know. In our family we might be a son or a daughter, a niece or a nephew, a brother or a sister. We might be a friend, a cousin, a grandson or granddaughter. Sometimes we might even be an aunt or an uncle. We might have more than one relationship with someone else. In the same way, the depth of God's relationship with us is indicated by the three persons of the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for Trinity Sunday, starting with the Gospel. Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted. As the mystery of the Trinity is a difficult concept for all of us, let alone for children, it would be appropriate to stress relationship within the Trinity - Father, Son, Holy Spirit - and the **love** that is the Blessed Trinity {God is love}. The advice given by Paul in the second reading from 2 Corinthians will be helpful this week to reinforce the importance of loving relationships.)

GOSPEL

John 3:16-17

Jesus told Nicodemus:

“God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never die. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them!”

FIRST READING

Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

Moses did exactly what the Lord had told him. He got up early and carried the two stone tablets up the side of Mount Sinai.

The Lord came down in a cloud and stood beside Moses. Then he said, "I am the Lord." He also walked up and down in front of Moses and said, "I am the Lord God, and I am kind and merciful. I don't easily lose my temper, and my love can be trusted."

Moses quickly bowed low. He worshipped and said, "Lord, if you are pleased with me, then don't leave your people. We are stubborn. But I beg you to forgive our terrible sins and let us be your very own people."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Daniel 3:52, 53, 56

Response: Glory and praise for ever!

Lord God of our ancestors, you are worthy of praise, the highest praise forever. Your glorious and holy name is also worthy of praise, the highest praise forever. **R**

You are glorious and holy, worthy of praise in your temple, the highest praise forever. You are worthy of praise in the heavens, honoured with hymns forever. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Good-bye, my friends.

Do better and pay attention to what I have said. Try to get along and live peacefully with each other.

Now I pray that God, who gives love and peace, will be with you. Give each other a warm greeting. All of God's people send their greetings.

I pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will bless you and be kind to you! May God bless you with his love, and may the Holy Spirit join all your hearts together.

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

Each of these short readings once again gives us an insight into the mystery of God. In the first, God reveals to Moses the attributes of kindness, mercy, patience and trustworthiness as Moses appeals to his forgiveness on behalf of the people with whom God enters into an intimate relationship. The second reading explores the fruit of the Spirit that brings warmth to our relationships together. The Gospel completes the picture as it very simply speaks of God's great immeasurable love and the saving action of Jesus. John writes from the premise that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that this belief would ensure eternal life for his readers. John's Gospel (Ch.14) also tells us that the intimacy of the relationship between the Father and the Son, means that in knowing the Son, one comes to know the Father. From the earliest times the Church has pondered the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Doctrine of the Trinity, three persons in one God, is the result of this. Theologians today continue to contemplate the mystery of the Trinity, which is central to the faith and life of Christians. Traditionally St Patrick was purported to use the shamrock in an attempt to explain the Trinity as God who is three in one.



Images from the Readings

- God loved us so much he gave his only Son
- Not to condemn the people but to save them
- Kind and merciful
- Love that can be trusted
- Unity in the Holy Spirit

Reflection for Leaders

The beautiful blessing Paul gives us in the second reading is worth spending time with: 'May God bless you with his love, and may the Holy Spirit join all your hearts together'. The more traditional version is used as a greeting at the beginning of Mass. Where in your life have you experienced God's love and blessing, and the unity and fellowship of the Trinity in your relationships? In what ways does Jesus give you a glimpse of God? For all of us, faith and belief is a continual journey. What are the things that impede this journey for you, and what are the things that encourage your efforts in this journey? What things in your life are 'life giving' for you? Just as the Trinity is a pattern of community for us, think about your own relationships. Consider the different attributes of God as Father, Son and Spirit. Make an effort to formulate separate prayers to each member of the Trinity, based on these characteristics.

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, three candles, a bowl of water.



Leader's Liturgy Outline

Trinity 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

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, you are Father, Son and Spirit. You sent Jesus to teach us how to live and the Holy Spirit to encourage us. Help us to live in your ways and stay close to us always. Amen

R Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9 The Word of the Lord /

Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Responsorial: Daniel 3:52, 53, 56

Response: Glory and praise for ever!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

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

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)

Music © 2011 Maria Guzzo



General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

Gospel: John 3:16-17

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.*

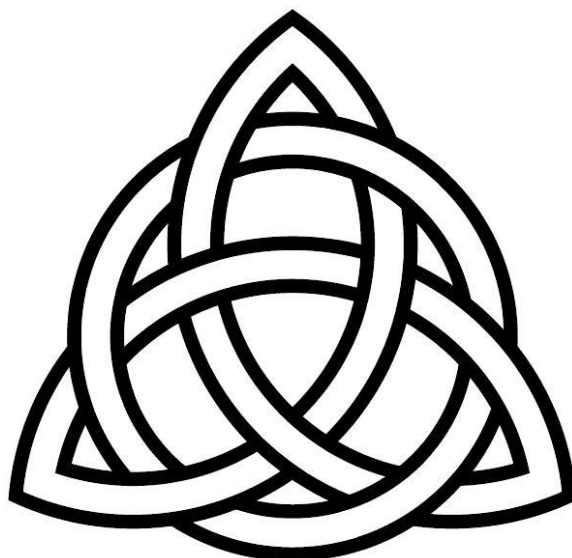
- Do you know what this icon represents? (The holy Trinity) Trinity is a word that means 'made up of three', and today we celebrate a feast day that honours our understanding of three persons in one God. Can you name the three persons that make up the Trinity? (the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit)
- In today's Gospel Jesus explains to a man called Nicodemus that out of God's great love for the world God had given Jesus to us. Can you remember what the Gospel told us Jesus was sent into the world to do? (to save the people, not to condemn anyone)
- Last week we celebrated another feast day called Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples as Jesus returned to his Father. Can you think of any special prayers that we say when all these three persons are referred to?
What is the simple one that we say as we come into the church and bless ourselves with the holy water? (Sign of the Cross. Other prayers include the Glory Be, the Creed, the signing with three little crosses of the forehead, the lips and heart before the Gospel is proclaimed, the words of our Baptism.)

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

Using the bowl of water let the children come and dip their hands in as they reverently bless themselves with the sign of the cross:

‘In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen’



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: As God's children we face life with hope. Let us pray to God:

- That our Church will be a symbol of hope and good relationships to all
Let us pray to the Lord **R Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will be respectful to those who are in charge of us at home, at school
and in our community
Let us pray to the Lord **R Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will always try to get along and live peacefully with one another
Let us pray to the Lord **R Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That all who feel rejected and condemned will know God's saving love
Let us pray to the Lord **R Lord hear our prayer**
Or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Gracious God, listen to these prayers that we make in the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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