



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *Solemnity of All Saints*

*White*

*'To be with God'*

Revelation 7: 9-10 Psalm 24 Matthew 5: 1-12

*The Feast of All Saints is a remembrance  
of all those men and women who have lived  
heroic Gospel-inspired lives  
and who have been recognised by the Church.  
This feast reminds us of our ultimate goal  
– to be with God.*



### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for The Feast of All Saints, 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*

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the side of a mountain and sat down.

Jesus' disciples gathered around him and he taught them:

"God blesses those people who depend only on him. They belong to the kingdom of heaven!

God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort! God blesses those people who are humble. The earth will belong to them! God blesses those people who want to obey him more than to eat or to drink. They will be given what they want! God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy!

God blesses those people whose hearts are pure. They will see him! God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called his children! God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right things. They belong to the kingdom of heaven

God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. Be happy and excited! You will have a great reward in heaven.

I John, saw a large crowd with more people than could be counted. They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language and they stood before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands as they shouted: "Our God, who sits on the throne, has the power to save his people, and so does the Lamb."

**Response:** Lord this is the people that longs to see your face

The earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord.

The world and its people belong to him.

The Lord placed it all on the oceans and rivers. R

Who may climb the Lord's mountain or stand in his holy temple?

Only those who do right for the right reasons,

And don't worship idols or tell lies under oath. R

The Lord God, who saves them, will bless and reward them,

Because they worship and serve the God of Jacob. R

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

The communion we share with Mary and the Saints in every liturgy is highlighted very clearly today. As early as the fourth century the saints were commemorated in the Eucharistic Prayer. At first the commemoration was that of martyrs from the local area or others who were particularly important to the Church like Mary, Peter and Paul. Later, after the time of persecution ended, saints who were not martyrs were added to the list. Catalogues were drawn up and were intended to be universal. These catalogues were called martyrologies and included names, dates and details of each saint's life. Some monasteries still read daily from the martyrology. In more recent years we have seen the revision of this calendar. Saints whose details could not be confirmed historically have had their names removed while people from more recent times, like Saint Mary (MacKillop) of the Cross, are being added. The importance of these saints is to point us towards God, to show us how to live ever more faithfully by Gospel values, as they did during their lives. We remember them and celebrate with them whenever we gather for Eucharist. One day we will join with them in worshipping God in the heavenly liturgy.

## Images from the Readings

- Large crowd before the throne
- God blesses
- They belong to the kingdom of heaven
- They will be treated with mercy
- They will be called his children

## Reflection for Leaders

Today's Gospel is 'The Beatitudes' from the Sermon on the Mount. This website address <https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/beatitudes-film-light-bulb> will take you to a reflection on *Despicable Me* relating it to **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God**. At the bottom of the 'Despicable Me' reflection there are links to other ones from different children's movies for each of the other beatitudes. Perhaps as leader you could choose one of these reflections for a movie that you think the children will have seen and talk about how the movie's message is like one of the beatitudes.

**More Beatitudes on Film for children** (links at end of 'Despicable Me' reflection on above web address):

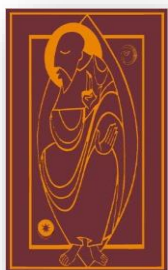
- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven in ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***.
- Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted in ***Up***.
- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth in ***Bolt***.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled in ***E.T.***
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy in ***Big Hero 6***.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God in ***Frozen***.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven in ***Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince***.

## 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



White cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a statue or picture of your parish saint or other saints important to your parish or area.



# LITURGY OUTLINE

## *Solemnity of All Saints*

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 have made for us a church of many people.  
Thank you for giving us companions on our journey to you. May we always welcome those who are outsiders and be friends to those in need. Amen

**R** Amen.

*First Reading: Revelation 7: 9-10* The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki  
(if used) **Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

### *Psalms 24*

**Response:** Lord this is the people that longs to see your face  
(or another suitable response known by the children)

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: Matthew 5: 1-12

**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 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:

- If you have prepared using the 'Thinking Faith' website that relates some children's movies to the Beatitudes (today's Gospel) as suggested on page 3 of this resource, you may prefer to spend this time reflecting on that particular Beatitude.

*Otherwise use the following discussion starters:*

- Jesus teaches us that God blesses those people who make peace. Do you know what peace is? (quietness, calmness, not having trouble) The peace that Jesus gave to his followers was special.
- Do you know what was special about it? (It is a gift from the Holy Spirit) How do we know we have this gift? (peace comes to us when we wait quietly in our hearts to meet Jesus)

- When would be a good time of the day to spend some peaceful time with God? (the children will give different answers; encourage them to think about times when they are upset, or worried, or angry. Taking time out to find this peace that is always with them can be very helpful)
- What happens to us when we live like peaceful people? (we become more gentle, truthful, wise and understanding because we are able to hear God's voice in our hearts. Other people and animals too, like to be around peaceful people. It helps them to feel good too.)



**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*

The Litany of the Saints is a prayer asking many saints to pray for us. It is most commonly prayed at the Easter Vigil and at ordination ceremonies, but can be used at many times. Pray this shortened version with the children. Be sure to include the names of the saints of your parish or school.

### **Leader**

Lord have mercy  
 Christ have mercy  
 Lord have mercy  
 Holy Mary  
 St John the Baptist  
 St Peter  
 St Joseph  
 St Patrick  
 St Francis  
 St Dominic  
 St Therese  
 St Mary MacKillop of the Cross  
 All holy men and women

### **Children**

Lord have mercy  
 Christ have mercy  
 Lord have mercy  
 Pray for us  
 Pray for us  
 Pray for us  
 Pray for us  
 Pray for us  
 Pray for us  
 Pray for us  
 Pray for us  
 Pray for us



## *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:** Let us pray to God our creator for all our needs.

- For a church that hears the cry of the poor  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those who mourn that they may be comforted  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those who are treated badly for doing the right thing, that they may receive strength and courage  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For ourselves that we will make time in our lives to meet with Jesus and know peace in our hearts and our lives  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** O God, you care for your people. Hear the prayers that we your children make to you through Jesus Christ our Lord

**All:** Amen

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

# Solemnity of All Saints

## Liquid Pictures

Matthew 5:1-12

Beatitudes

**Note to leaders:** The following **liquid picture** is appropriate to use with children of any age but especially suitable for **younger children**.

### How to do liquid pictures:

Liquid Pictures is a form of drama which allows a story to be presented in a flowing or liquid manner. The process follows this pattern:

- Divide the story or Scriptural passage into five or six main statements.
- Accompany each statement with a simple action that can be held in a freeze frame position.
- Choose one child to say each statement and do a simple action. These children form a straight line facing the audience.
- A leader introduces the story.
- The first child steps forward, repeats the statement two or three times (once is not enough for children to remember!) then freezes.
- The second child steps forward, repeats the statement and freezes.
- The process continues until the last child finishes.
- The leader concludes with a simple statement.

**Leader:** Jesus loves all people, especially ...

Sad people

People without homes

People who are treated unfairly

Gentle people

Forgiving people

Peaceful people

People who care for others

**Leader:** Jesus loves all people!



*From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, [www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au](http://www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au). Available from the Liturgy Centre.*