



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

'Listening to Jesus'

Green

Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15 Colossians 1:27-28 Luke 10:38-42



Jesus and his disciples were hungry and thirsty after travelling, and Martha had invited them for a meal. She was very busy cooking and organising for the crowd, and was angry when her sister, Mary, left her to work while she sat at Jesus' feet and listened to him. What might have made Martha feel so angry? What did Jesus say when she complained to him? Many people today are very busy and very stressed. What does this story tell us about what Jesus thinks is the most important thing for us today?

Leader's Preparation

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

Luke 10:38-42

The Lord and his disciples were travelling along and came to a village. When they got there, a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat down in front of the Lord and was listening to what he said.

Martha was worried about all that had to be done. Finally, she went to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it bother you that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!"

The Lord answered, "Martha, Martha! You are worried and upset about so many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken away from her."

One hot summer afternoon Abraham was sitting by the entrance to his tent near the sacred trees of Mamre, when the Lord appeared to him. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. He quickly ran to meet them and bowed with his face to the ground. He said, "Please come to my home where I can serve you. I will have some water brought, so you can wash your feet, and then you can rest under the tree. Let me get you some food to give you strength before you leave. I would be honoured to serve you."

They answered, "Thank you very much. We accept your offer."

Abraham hurried to his tent and said to Sarah, "Hurry! Get a large sack of fine flour. Then mix it and make some bread."

After saying this, he hurried off to his herd of cattle and picked out one of the best calves, which his servant quickly prepared. He served his guests some yoghurt and milk, together with the meat. While they were eating, he stood near them under the trees.

They asked him, "Where is your wife Sarah?"

He answered, "She is right there in the tent."

One of the guests was the Lord, and he said, "I will come back next spring, and when I do, Sarah will already have a son."

PSALM

Response: The just will live in the presence of the Lord
or **Alleluia!**

Who may stay in God's temple or live on the holy mountain of the Lord?

Only those who obey God and do as they should.

They speak the truth and don't spread gossip. **R**

They treat others fairly and don't say cruel things.

Those who do these things will always stand firm. **R**

SECOND READING

Brothers and sisters:

God did this because he wanted you Gentiles to understand his wonderful and glorious mystery. And the mystery is that Christ lives in you, and he is your hope of sharing in God's glory.

We announce the message about Christ, and we use all our wisdom to warn and teach everyone, so that all Christ's followers will grow and become mature.

Background to the Readings for Leaders

Martha, Mary and their brother Lazarus lived in the village of Bethany just outside Jerusalem. As friends of Jesus they would have been ready to welcome him and his friends into their home as they travelled around. This is particularly true of Martha. Yet she becomes so preoccupied with the fuss of getting food ready that she is failing to do exactly what she had originally set out to do – offer hospitality. Mary, attentive to the words and teaching of Jesus, paying full attention to the guest, offers the true welcome. The attitude of Mary is one of discipleship. To sit at the feet of the Master and listen is what the followers or students did. This position was often only given to men, so in praising Mary, Jesus is encouraging women to move out of their cultural place and into discipleship roles. Jesus is not rebuking Martha because of her acts of service, rather he is pointing out that by concentrating too much on the trivial she has denied herself a more important role. While we initially may feel empathy for Martha's plight, deeper reflection lets us recognise the balance which is needed: not just selfless love and service, but also to prioritise the need to be attentive and listen to the word of God.

Images from the Readings

- *Listening to Jesus*
- *You are worried and upset*
- *Chosen what is best*
- *Come to my home where I can serve you*
- *Sharing in God's glory*

Reflection for Leaders



It is common today for us to respond to any greeting with an acknowledgement of our 'busy-ness', as though if we were not busy we would have no value. Worry, anxiety and stress are common symptoms of our modern life-style. We are all so busy and so stressed that to find time to be still and to be quiet, to "sit at Jesus' feet", is almost beyond what we are able to manage. With which of the two women in the Gospel today do you more readily identify? How might you balance your life by cultivating the other side more fully? When was the last time that you gave your undivided attention to someone important in your life? Do you find your

little daily anxieties distract you from God? What happens when you take time out, perhaps a retreat day, to be still and attentive to the voice of God?

Make time this week to spend regular time reading Scripture and praying, maybe without words, fixing your heart on Jesus.

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

Green cloth, Lectionary, candle, a dustpan and brush & a clock



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

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, we pray that we will always make you welcome and be ready to spend time listening to your word.

R Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10

(if used)

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

Psalms 15

Response:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord

or

Alleluia

Second Reading: Colossians 1:27-28

(if used)

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: Luke 10:38-42

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke
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 children the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. When each has had an opportunity to speak you might begin general discussion by building on to their responses. Help the children to focus on the “feelings” in this particular Gospel reading by using some prepared questions like the following:

- Martha, Mary and their brother Lazarus were good friends of Jesus’. He used to visit them at their house in Bethany whenever he was passing. Do you have a friend that you like to visit? Why do you like being in their home? (they make you feel welcome and are nice to you)
- Martha showed kindness and love to Jesus by getting the food ready for him and his disciples. Would she have needed to get a lot of food ready? How do you think Martha felt when she saw Mary was leaving her to do all the work by herself?
- Mary showed love by listening to Jesus. Martha spoilt it by complaining. Do you ever moan and complain when you have to do some jobs at home?
- Do you think Jesus was fair? Why? Jesus always goes beyond fairness, and calls us to even greater love.

- Is there a right time to be still, to pray and listen to Jesus? What is the best time of day for you to pray?

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

Jesus invites us all to sit at his feet, just as Mary has done.



Today, as our act of worship, let us sit in silence as we quietly think about the Gospel reading and pray that we will have time to sit quietly with Jesus every day.

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: Having listened and heard the word of God, we approach our God with our needs:

- For the Church that it can truly be a place where strangers are welcomed and made to feel at home ... Let us pray to the Lord

R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For the gift of hospitality in our homes, open to all who come to us in need ...
Let us pray to the Lord

R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For the wisdom to recognise what is important in life, and which things take priority ... Let us pray to the Lord

R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For the gift of really listening, both to our God and to each other ... Let us pray to the Lord

R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of all goodness, you are so generous to us.

Hear the prayers we offer through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen

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



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Echo Mime

Luke 10:38-42

Mary and Martha

Note to Leaders:

People required: Leader, Reader (preferably an older child), **chorus group** (either each child could have a copy of the reflection or one child could act as leader, saying the 'chorus' part first and then all other children could simply repeat that line.)

Leader: Jesus and his disciple came to a village and met two sisters, Mary and Martha.

Chorus: Mary and Martha.

Reader: Martha welcomed them to their house.

Chorus: Welcome Jesus! Welcome disciples!

Reader: Martha went straight to the kitchen to prepare a meal.

Chorus: Dinner's ready!

Reader: But Mary did not help her at all!

Chorus: Not Mary!

Reader: Mary sat down with Jesus and listened to him talking to her.

Chorus: Mary listened to Jesus.

Leader: Mary wanted to learn from Jesus.

Reader: Jesus thought that it was good that Mary was listening to him.

Chorus: Mary listened to Jesus.

Leader: The important thing is to listen to Jesus.

Chorus: It is good to listen to Jesus.



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.