



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

*'What am I to do, Jesus?'*

*Green*



Colossians 3:1-4 Psalm 147 Luke 12:16-21

*Why did the rich man need to build bigger and better barns? If he had been a kind and generous man, what do you think he could have done with all the extra crops that he had produced? Jesus is telling us today that money and possessions do not make us rich in the eyes of God. What do you think are the riches that God recognises?*

### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Eighteenth 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 12:16-21

Jesus told the crowd this story:

“A rich man’s farm produced a big crop, and he said to himself, ‘What can I do? I don’t have a place large enough to store everything.’

“Later, he said, ‘Now I know what I’ll do. I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods.

Then I’ll say to myself, “You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.”’

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?’

“This is what happens to people who store up everything for themselves, but are poor in the sight of God.”

Brothers and sisters:

You have been raised to life with Christ.  
Now set your heart on what is in heaven,  
where Christ rules at God's right side.  
Think about what is up there,  
not about what is here on earth.

You died, which means that your life is hidden with Christ,  
who sits beside God;  
Christ gives meaning to your life,  
and when he appears,  
you will also appear with him in glory.

**PSALM**

Psalm 147

Response:           **Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord**  
                        **or           Alleluia!**

Shout praises to the Lord!  
Our God is kind, and it is right and good  
to sing praises to him. **R**

He renews our hopes and heals our bodies.  
He decided how many stars there would be in the sky  
and gave each one a name. **R**

Our Lord is great and powerful!  
He understands everything.  
Celebrate and sing!  
Play your harps for the Lord our God. **R**

*Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)  
© Archdiocese of Chicago LTP. 1994                      Used with permission*

## *Background to the Readings for Leaders*

The Jewish people had long held the requirement to share their excess with those in need, acknowledging that everything belongs to God. In the early Christian church, members shared their wealth so that everyone's needs could be met. A major underlying theme of Luke is the right use of wealth and money. The underlying issue behind today's Gospel is greed, and Jesus teaches a lesson about the futility of a life spent amassing material possessions. The goods of the earth are essential to our survival, but they do not satisfy the deepest longings of the human spirit. Wealth in and of itself is not seen as wrong, and the selfishness in not sharing is likewise not addressed. But amassing wealth and the underlying issue of greed is explored. Possessions do not last, and at death they are passed on to another, with no knowing how they will be used. Jesus has come to establish a new situation where people are more interested in the kingdom of God and using our time here in this life in preparation for that. In our commitment to Christ we discover that we can transform what is transitory in life by giving it away in love.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *What am I to do?*
- *Build bigger barns*
- *Poor in the sight of God*
- *Set your heart on heaven*
- *Christ gives meaning*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

We often hear stories of the rich and famous being desperately unhappy despite their abundant wealth. Material comfort cannot really protect us against suffering, and many people in the poorest circumstances can be happier than those who live in affluence and comfort. The questions raised for us in the readings today focus on our priorities - where do we find our true fulfilment and to what do we commit ourselves? Consider an example of a time you experienced great happiness that didn't involve money or possessions. How important is the acquisition of material possessions to you? Sometimes the drive to material security can distract us from what is truly important. Does your faith community provide opportunities to share and care for other people? What values and attitudes need to be adjusted this week? Find an avenue to share some of your possessions and wealth with those who are in need.

## *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*

## *LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE*

# *Eighteenth 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, all good things come from you. Help us to store up our riches in heaven and not just on earth.

R Amen.

### *First Reading: Colossians 3:1-4*

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

### *Psalm 147*

Response: Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord  
or Alleluia

D      G      Bm      A      D      G      Asus<sup>4</sup>      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 12:16-21

**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 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.

- Have you ever desperately wanted a new toy, and when you have got it, found that you weren't all that interested in it anymore? Many times when we see things advertised on television they look really exciting, but sometimes when we get them they aren't really as exciting as we thought they would be.
- When we listen to the Gospel today, what does it tell us about why the rich man needed to build bigger and better barns? What was he planning to do with them?
- What else do you think he might have done with all the extra crops that his farm was producing?
- Is Jesus telling us that it is wrong to have possessions? (No - just that they don't make us happy, we cannot take them with us when we die and that we should be generous and not greedy)
- What does Jesus mean when he talks about being 'poor in the sight of God'? What do you think we can do that will make us 'rich in the sight of God'?

**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*

*Invite the children to choose one thing that they can personally do this week that will make them ‘rich in the sight of God’. Write it on a card and place at the prayer focus.*



## *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:** Loving God, you invite us to bring all our needs to you in prayer. Listen to the prayers of your children:

- That our church always helps us recognise our true treasure...  
... Let us pray to the Lord  
**R Lord hear our prayer**      or      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a desire to live as God wants, and be rich in God's sight...  
... Let us pray to the Lord  
**R Lord hear our prayer**      or      **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a right attitude to possessions, and the generosity to share what we have with others in our family, our school and 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 learn what really makes us secure in life and let go of greed and selfishness...  
... 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 generous in what you give us.  
Help us to recognise what is important and lasting in this life.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord

**All:** **Amen**

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



# *Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

## *Chorus Play*

Luke 12:16-21

What am I to do, Jesus?

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

**People required:** Chorus, God, Reader.

**Chorus:** What am I to do, Jesus? What am I to do?

**Reader:** Once there was a rich man

**Chorus:** A really, really rich man.

**Reader:** And he asked Jesus:

**Chorus:** What am I to do, Jesus? What am I to do?

**Reader:** I have SO much wealth, I don't know what to do with it all!

**Chorus:** What am I to do, Jesus? What am I to do?

**Reader:** More, more, more! I need more wealth!

**God:** You foolish, foolish person. This very night you will die.

**Reader:** And now what good is all your wealth?

**Chorus:** No good! No good! No good at all!

**Reader:** So what is really important to YOU in life?



From 'Just Imagine 3, Even more 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.