



LEADING CHILDREN'S LITURGY of the WORD

BEFORE you BEGIN:

- *Reflect before hand at home on the Gospel passage you will use*
- *Prepare the Space well*
- *Set up a Focal Point for the Prayer Space*
- *Use the Liturgical Colour for the Season*



- *Use simple images*
- *Use Candles which are safe*
- *If you are going to use Music make sure the CD player is in place and the music is either:*
 - *An alleluia to greet the Gospel*
 - *Related to the theme of the Gospel*
 - *A Repetitive Prayer Chant*

REFLECTING on GOD'S WORD:

Lead the children towards praying with God's word in four phases –



ENABLING the CHILDREN to SHARE:

Remember this is not Sunday School. The purpose of the Liturgy of the Word for Children is to help them encounter Christ and really hear his words.

So here are some key focus questions you can ask the children at each stage of the process of reflection:

1. READING

- When we listen to God's word in the Gospel today –
 - What do you hear Jesus saying?
 - What do you notice Jesus doing?
 - What do other people in the Gospel story say and do?

2. REFLECTING

- What is Jesus asking you to do today in the Gospel?
- Can you name any actions that you feel Jesus is asking you to do?
- Who are you most like in today's Gospel story?

3. RESPONDING

- You should now encourage the children to pray outloud, staying with the images they have notice. These can be:
 - Thank you prayers
 - Help me/us prayers
 - Sorry prayers
 - Asking prayers

4. RESTING

- This should move the children into a more contemplative way of praying, so invite them to close their eyes and hold their hand on their heart
- Hold the candle in your hand
- Then repeat some of the phrases from the Gospel which they noticed today

Gather all the prayer together by saying the Glory Be to the Father outloud.....

PREDICTABLE PRAYER PATTERNS:

All Liturgy has a predictable prayer pattern which we learn over time 'by heart'.
The same predictable patterns should be in place in the Liturgy of the Word for Children.
Below is a sample prayer pattern:

GATHER:

Making the Sign of the Cross together very slowly
Followed by singing an accessible version of the Gloria

INTRODUCE the GOSPEL:

Tell the children that 'we are going to listen to the words and actions of Jesus', and before we do this we will thank God for all his words by singing our Alleluia
Sing an accessible version of the Alleluia
Now invite a named reader to proclaim the Gospel

REFLECTION TIME:

Take the Children through the four stages – using the accompanying worksheet

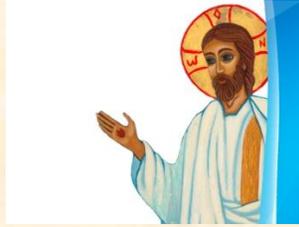
PROCESSION:

When you have completed the four stages, assemble the children for a procession back to Church, in pairs holding hands – Older children can be paired up with younger children.
Join the children to the offertory procession, so that they go up the central isle back to their families quietly.

USEFUL MUSIC:

- The Share the Light CD by Bernadette Farrell is excellent and begins to teach children the prayer patterns of the mass
- No Organist, No Problem CD from Kevin Mayhew is good as the children can sing along

MEETING JESUS in the GOSPEL TODAY



These are the words of Jesus I heard

These are actions Jesus did today

What is Jesus asking you to do today?

What prayer would you like to write today?

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit