

Liturgy of the Word with Children General Introduction to Sundays in Ordinary Time, Year B Mark

Catechist Background

'Ordinary Time' in the Church is not really ordinary at all! The term comes from the Latin word that mean 'numbered' and refers to the fact that we number (or 'order') the weeks in the Church's year.

Setting the Scene

Green is the usual colour for Ordinary Time, and if your Children's Liturgy space allows, you may choose to incorporate that colour into a centrepiece.

We Say Sorry

In some parishes, Children's Liturgy of the Word begins before the Introductory Rite has finished. If you have been in the main body of the church for the Penitential Rite, there is no need to repeat it in Children's Liturgy.

We Pray (1)

The Opening Prayer expresses the theme of the readings for the day. As above, if you have been in the main body of the church for the Opening Prayer, there is no need to repeat it in Children's Liturgy.

Gospel Acclamation

'Alleluia' is the normal Gospel acclamation sung during Advent. For the Gospel Acclamation you might like to have a look at:

- *Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word* by Christopher Walker (Oregon Catholic Press)
- 'Halle, Halle, Halle' by John Bell (Wild Goose Publications), also contained in *Laudate*, no. 178
- Some of the Gospel Acclamations used at your parish mass if suitable
- Try writing your own words using tunes familiar to children (see suggestions in *The Complete Children's Liturgy* by Katie Thompson (Kevin Mayhew publishers))

Gospel

This year is year 'B,' and most of the Gospel readings for Sunday Mass will come from the Gospel of Mark. Although it appears as the second book in the New Testament, Mark's Gospel was probably written before the others, and it is likely that Matthew and Luke used it as a reference. Mark portrays a very human side of Jesus, while emphasising his Messianic qualifications. He writes with a sense of urgency, expecting (as did many first- and second-generation Christians) that Jesus' return to earth was imminent. His style is very streamlined, with little conversation and lots of action from the main characters.

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

Questions are provided to help draw out a greater understanding of the Gospel reading for the children, as well as to help focus on aspects which may be relevant for them.

Response

An activity has been provided to visually and actively cement the understanding the children may have gained from listening to and reflecting upon the Gospel and help them to own it in their hearts.

We Believe

We Pray (2)

'All liturgy is prayer and it is right that a liturgy of the word with children should end with a time of intercession. The prayer may arise from the children's reflection but it is always concerned with the needs of the whole Church and the world. It is important to remember that the petitions are invitations to pray not the prayers themselves, so a short phrase that invites the children to pray is better than a long or detailed list of concerns. This model of intercession is easily learned by children.' (*Liturgy of the Word with Children – Guidelines –Commentary ¶7*)

