

Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word *with Children*



The children process with the Word of God to their sacred place

The bible is placed reverently.

All are welcomed and invited by the leader to hear the Word of God.

The group begins with a prayer.

Before the Gospel other readings and psalm of the day may be proclaimed/sung

The Gospel is welcomed with an Acclamation

The Gospel is proclaimed

The Leader invites the group to reflect on the meaning of the Gospel and other readings for our lives.

A simple version of the Creed is prayed

Prayers are offered for people in need

Closing Prayer

Children return to the assembly as the Gifts are prepared in the Liturgy of the Eucharist

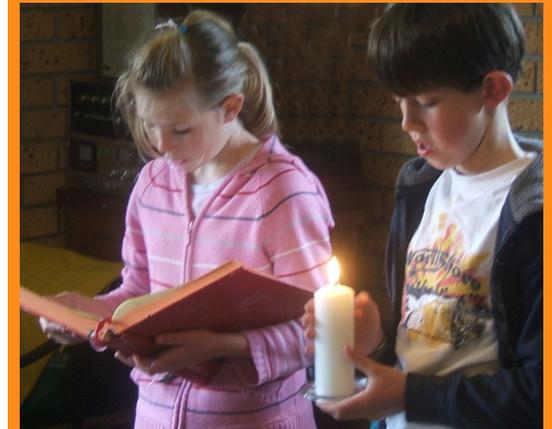
For more information
about celebrating
Liturgy of the Word with Children
including formation sessions for leaders
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OFFICE OF CHURCH LIFE
& MISSION

Let the Children Come



Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word *with Children*



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& MISSION
ARCHDIOCESE OF HOBART

What is the Children's Liturgy of the Word?

Children's liturgy of the word is simply what it claims to be: a ritual for the proclamation of God's Word with children.

It is a moment of salvation in which the living God communicates life to God's children and in which they respond with admiration, praise, thanksgiving and petition.

It is worship, not catechesis or Sunday School.

It is for school aged children aged between 5 and 11 years. If younger children need to attend they would be accompanied by an adult.

It is a time to hear God's word at an appropriate level.

It is an opportunity to hear the Gospel message and to consider how to practice it in life.

Children's Ministers of the Word undergo formation in order to be more effective ministers.



What happens during the Children's Liturgy of the Word?

All assemble in the main Church for the gathering or introductory rites.

After the opening prayer, the priest calls the children forward (or music might be played) and the book of God's Word is presented to the children's minister of the Word.

The children join the procession and follow their leaders to a specially prepared room for the children's celebration of the Word.



The children's Liturgy of the Word may follow the structure of the celebration by the adults:

Old Testament reading
Responsorial Psalm
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
Reflection by the children's Minister of the Word,
Creed
Prayer of the Faithful.

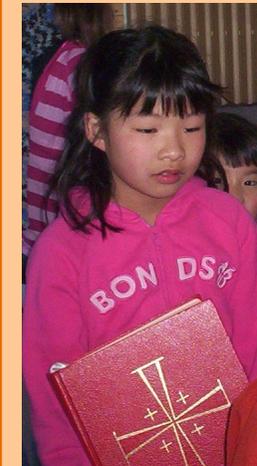
The children return to the main assembly area during the preparation of the gifts, as together we celebrate the Eucharist around the table as one family of faith.

**Christ 'is present in his word,
since it is he himself who speaks
when the holy Scriptures are read
in the Church'.**

CSL 7

Sunday is the holy day when the local church comes together to give God praise.

Our children do not celebrate their own 'Children's Mass' away from the adults but worship with their family and the other members of the community. They use an adapted version of the Adult Lectionary.



Children's Liturgy is not normally held every Sunday or at major liturgical gatherings. This attempts to balance two principles: the children's need to understand the Word of God and the importance of the children to grow into an adult experience of worship.

In 1973 the following permission was given for Children's Liturgy of the Word:

'It will be appropriate to celebrate the liturgy of the word including a homily, with the children in a separate, but not too distant room.

Then before the Eucharistic liturgy begins, the children are led to the place where the adults have meanwhile celebrated their own liturgy of the word.'

(Directory for Masses with Children No.17)

