

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD LEADER

Purpose:

The role of the Children's Liturgy of the Word Leader is to lead children in the Liturgy of the Word so it is a ritual centred on the proclamation and breaking open of the scriptures.

Responsible to:

Parish Priest and Children's Liturgy of the Word Coordinator.

Role Description:

Facilitate children, generally of primary school age, participating in the Liturgy of the Word which parallels the Liturgy of the Word at Mass in content, structure and symbol. The children listen to the scriptures proclaimed and applied to contemporary life and respond in various ways. It is primarily an experience of prayer, and of dialogue with God.

Duties:

The Children's Liturgy Leader will:

- Arrive in a timely manner prior to the commencement of the Mass, allowing enough time for preparation and set up.
- Introduce themselves to the Celebrant, who will usually be preparing for the Mass in the Sacristy.
- Set up the liturgical space that is separate but not too distant from the church and the environment arranged so that the children can see each other and see and hear the leader.
- Ensure that there are at least two adults present during Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- Ensure the various liturgical objects are used, including the lectionary and candle to provide a focal point for the celebration.
- Use visual elements, symbols, gesture, silence, movement and singing to heighten the children's experience of liturgy.
- Use the Lectionary for Masses with Children which is the approved book of readings for Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- Provide opportunities for children to take on ministerial roles in the celebration, including proclaiming the readings, playing music, and leading singing and prayers.
- At the conclusion of Mass, pack up the Children's Liturgy area and resources.

Duties may vary from parish to parish.

During the Liturgy:

- At the conclusion of the opening prayer, but before the First Reading is proclaimed, gather with the children at the Sanctuary steps for the

Celebrant to formally send the children and their ministers to the place where they will celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word.

- Lead the children out of the church, with children carrying the lectionary and candle.
- Begin the session with welcoming the children and saying the Opening Prayer.
- Arrange for the children to listen to the readings proclaimed audibly, clearly and reverently by competent readers.
- Engage the children in applying the Gospel of the day to contemporary life and responding in various ways that are age appropriate, understandable and meaningful.
- Ensure the children return quietly to the church to participate in the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding Rites with the worshipping assembly.

Conditions:

- This is a volunteer role.
- The anticipated commitment is to be placed on a roster to assist during the school term.
- Leaders are required to:
 - hold a current Victorian Working with Children Check or Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration with the parish registered as a volunteer organisation. This check remains current for five years;
 - apply for a Police Record Check or provide a recent Police Record Check (cost will be covered by the Parish).
 - read and sign the Safeguarding Code of Conduct. Once signed, it will remain current for three years;
 - Complete the Safeguarding Essentials online training module. Once completed, it will remain current for three years.

Training required:

- All leaders must complete a safeguarding training module as required.
- Initial induction training prior to commencing in the role and other training/formation as required.

Qualifications and experience:

- Experience working in early childhood education or primary teaching is helpful but not essential.
- New leaders will receive training as appropriate and are partnered with more experienced leaders.
- Practices the Catholic faith through regular attendance at liturgy and reception of the Sacraments.

Skills and attributes:

- Respects the cultural, gender and age diversity of the parish.
- Committed to the safety of children, young people and vulnerable people.
- Committed to ongoing personal faith formation.
- Willingness to participate in learning opportunities e.g. induction, training and development.

- Willingness to liaise and work collaboratively with the Children's Liturgy Coordinator and other Children's Liturgy leaders.
- Respects confidentiality and privacy.
- Able to communicate effectively and respectfully with others.

Benefits to this position:

Those who commit to this ministry have the special privilege of opening up the scripture with children.