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| NCPS-logo-purple-2607077 (2) | ***National Committee for Professional Standards*** |

**Child Protection Week 4 – 10 September**

**Children’s Mass or Liturgy “See Me, Hear Me”**

**Organise Prior to Mass or Liturgy**

Create a simple **prayer focus** that indicates the Liturgical season. Eg use of green candles and green materials. Symbols around listening – headphones, etc

**Children’s** roles including serve at the altar, readings, gospel procession, offertory procession, etc.

**If possible, a Children’s choir (could be from local catholic School)**

Consulting with children to choose the hymns for the mass

**Elements**

**Gathering**

**Welcome of the congregation from the children**

This welcome could include children greeting parishioners at the Church doors, handing out prayer cards or children reading the chosen prayer card at the front of the altar, prior to the priest entering the Church

**Preparing to Listen**

This is the twenty-third Sunday in ordinary time. It is the special day, the Australian Catholic Bishops have nominated as a Child Protection Sunday, where the Gospel and the theme **‘See Me, Hear Me’** suggests how we as a community need to listen to our children.

We need to stand guard and look after each other, particularly our children. We need to say sorry for the times we haven’t protected our children, causing them, their families, and the communities they live in a great deal of harm.

**Liturgy of the Word**

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Lectionary for Masses with Children

**FIRST READING**

**If you have not warned the wicked**

**Then I will hold you responsible for their death.**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel 33:7-9**

The Lord said:

“Ezekiel, you are a mere human, but I have chosen you to be a watchman for the people of Israel.

So listen to what I say and then warn them for me.

“When I tell evil people that they will die because of their sins, you must try to make them turn from their evil ways.

If you don’t warn them, you are responsible for what happens to them.

If you do warn them to turn from their evil ways, and they don’t, then they will die.

But you won’t be responsible.”

**The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM 95:1-2, 6-7abcd, 7e-9**

R. (8) If today you hear God’s voice, harden not your hearts.

Sing joyful songs to the Lord!

Praise the mighty rock

Where we are safe.

Come to worship him

With thankful hearts

And songs of praise.

**R. If today you hear God’s voice, harden not your hearts.**

Bow down and worship

The Lord our Creator!

The Lord is our God,

And we are his people,

The sheep he takes care of

In his own pasture.

**R. If today you hear God’s voice, harden not your hearts.**

Listen to God’s voice today!

Don’t be stubborn and rebel

As your ancestors did

At Meribah and at Massah

Out in the desert.

For forty years

They tested God and saw

The things he did.

**R: If today you hear God’s voice, harden not your hearts.**

**SECOND READING**

**Love is the fulfilment of the law**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 13:8-10**

Brothers and sisters:

Let love be your only debt!

If you love others,

You have done all that the Law demands.

In the Law there are many commands, such as,

“Be faithful in marriage.

Do not murder. Do not steal.

Do not want what belongs to others.”

But all of these are summed up in the command that says,

“Love others as much as you love yourself.”

No one who loves others will harm them.

So love is all that the Law demands.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Procession: (**as Acclamation is sung)

2 Candles, Lectionary and the letters of the words **LISTEN HEAR** Brought forward

**Acclamation ‘**Speak Lord’ Monica Brown: Holy Ground Can be purchased for $2 from

<http://au.emmausproductions.com/au-music/au-musicalbum-holyground.html>

Speak Lord I am Listening

Let your word be done unto me

May it find a home in me

**Or Gospel Acclamation**

**ALLELUIA 2 Corinthians 5:19**

R. Alleluia, alleluia

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;

And the good news of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia

**GOSPEL**

**If your brother or sister listens to you,**

**You will have won that person back.**

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 18:15-17**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If one of my followers sins against you,

Go and point out what was wrong.

But do it in private,

Just between the two of you,

If that person listens,

You have won back a follower,

But if that one refuses to listen,

Take along one or two others.

“The Scriptures teach that every complaint must be proven true by two or more witnesses.

If the follower refuses to listen to them, report the matter to the church.

“Anyone who refuses to listen to the church must be treated like an unbeliever or a tax collector.”

**The gospel of the Lord.**

**Homily/Discussion Suggestions for Parish Priest or Liturgy Leader**

Along with Homily notes provided with resources pack distributed to parishes the following thoughts are provided as amended conversation starters courtesy of Rina Wintour’s *Sacred Celebrations for Ordinary Time: Year A* used with permission

* Show the video *“Listening to Children, an Essential Voice”* included with resources.
* Today’s Gospel is all about community. Linked in with the theme of Child Protection Sunday *“See Me, Hear Me”,* which revolves around what children have to say about keeping themselves safe. Invite them to name the different communities to which they belong.
* Invite the children to discuss what it means to belong to a community? Is it important? Why? How does it feel? Is it always easy being part of a community? Are there certain things one needs to do when one belongs in a community?
* What do the children think about being safe in a community? Are there times when you feel unsafe? Can you name three people who can help you when you feel unsafe? What stops you from seeking help when you need it. What can adults do to help protect you? What can your school, church, sporting organisation, everyone else do to help you feel safe?
* What happens when someone in your community does something wrong or inappropriate or harms other people? How has the community handled the situation? Are the victims believed and looked after? Was it well handled? How can it be handled better?
* Name times when the community/group has shown support for people who have been hurt, experienced times of forgiveness and reconciliation. What were the circumstances?
* Invite the children or young people to share ideas about how they can grow the community – make it stronger, safer, more united, more harmonious.

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Leader:** Let us pray now for the leaders of our church, our schools, government, sporting organisations, those in our community and for our needs.

Reader: We pray for our church leaders, especially Pope Francis, Bishop…….., and religious congregation leaders that they will listen to the children and work for the good of all people. Lord hear us

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: We pray that when we might feel unsafe, we know there will be someone we can turn to who will listen when we need help. Lord hear us

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: We pray for everyone in our community who work with children and young people, that they may keep a watchful eye over children and young people.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: We pray that all who have been hurt by others may have the support and courage they need to tell their story and reach out for healing. Lord hear us

All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader: We pray that the children, and young people can grow in confidence in who they are, to be happy, and seek help when needed. Lord hear us

All: Lord hear our prayer

**Creative Reflection**

**Liturgical Dance**

Either of these Hymns would be suitable. youtube has the action to the Hymns that can be taught to Children prior to the Mass.

### [I LIGHT A CANDLE- Andrew Chinn - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nx3kDs1Jd4c)

[**▶ 3:51**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nx3kDs1Jd4c)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nx3kDs1Jd4c>

**or**

### [THE FACE OF GOD - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz0edKlqBzo)

[**▶ 3:52**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz0edKlqBzo)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz0edKlqBzo

**or**

**Liquid Picture or Tableaux vivants (Used with permission from Rina Wintour)**

The group read the Gospel together, talk about the story, its message and then act it out in dramatic form as a story in 7 or 8 movements.

Tableaux vivants are a dramatic form that can open up the Gospel. Dramatic snapshots of the children or young people portraying a message, similar to a photo in a photo album, are portrayed to tell the story.

A list of possible movements are listed as follows

**Leader: Jesus said we must love one another as he loves us. So in our Community, we should….**

Care for each other!

Treat each other fairly!

Be ready to forgive!

Listen to one another!

Be helpful!

Speak kind words!

Work together!

Play together!

**Leader: This is how we can build God’s community (kin-dom) on earth.**

**Offertory procession by children in the parish**

This could also include each child’s favourite toy, book or music CD

**Children circulating offering “the sign of peace”**

**After Mass/Liturgy**

**Morning tea – celebrating See Me, Hear me**

Each parish could operate a post mass function, celebrating the children in the parish community

**With thanks to Rina Wintour, the Sisters of St Joseph, and the NSW Chanceries Professional Standards Group for their suggestions and support.**