

## Preparation Guidelines for Masses with Children

Preparation for Mass begins with the liturgical calendar. Day by day, we walk with Jesus Christ, through the cycle of the liturgical year that remembers and celebrates his birth, life, death and resurrection. We also remember the Saints who show us how to live the Jesus way. The calendar provides us with the liturgical colour, prayers and readings for each day that suggest the mood, environment, symbols and songs appropriate to each celebration. Consider how the gospel of the day reflects the purpose of your celebration (e.g. beginning of the school year). Occasionally, it may be necessary to choose alternative readings and prayers. This is done in consultation with the Priest celebrating the Mass.

<p><b>Priest Consultation</b></p>	<p>Wherever possible, invite the celebrating Priest to share in the preparation and choices being made for the Mass. If this is not possible, ensure that the celebrant receives a copy of the readings, prayers, texts and names of the children who are leading/ministering each part of the mass.</p>
<p><b>Before Mass begins</b></p>	<p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children know how to bless themselves and <b>genuflect</b> to the tabernacle OR <b>bow</b> to the altar if the tabernacle is not in the sanctuary.</li> <li>• <b>Sacred silence</b> is observed before Mass begins.</li> <li>• Children are encouraged to pray in the silence of their hearts (provide suggestions on a PowerPoint).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ E.g. What can I thank God for today?</li> <li>○ Who shall I pray for today?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p><b>The Introductory Rites</b> Welcome</p>	<p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A welcome is provided to the Mass.</li> <li>• Use of the words “Welcome to Mass” before identifying the class/school, and the Priest who is celebrating the Mass.</li> <li>• An invitation to stand and sing the Opening Hymn.</li> </ul>
<p>Gathering Hymn &amp; Procession</p>	<p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Hymn draws children and adults together in giving praise and worship to God.</li> <li>• That the Entrance Procession is the time when symbols representing the work or particular identity of the community/season/occasion are brought forward (and returned later)</li> </ul>
<p>Penitential Rite Let the priest know if children are leading the petitions – see Form 3)</p>	<p><b>Choices:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form 1 (Confiteor: I Confess)</li> <li>• Form 2 (Scripture quotes)</li> <li>• Form 3 (3 Acclamations).</li> </ul> <p><b>Do ensure</b> (when preparing form three):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Petitions are addressed to Jesus as Lord or Christ: The season, feast or readings of the day will inspire you.</li> </ul>

<p>Gloria (if chosen). Sung on specific occasions</p> <p>-----</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “You (Jesus) fed the hungry: Lord have mercy.”</li> <li>○ “Lord Jesus, you give peace to the troubled: Christ have mercy.”</li> </ul> <p>Sundays Masses                    <b><u>Yes</u></b> / No</p> <p>Weekday Masses                    Yes / <b><u>No</u></b></p> <p>Feast day Masses                    <b><u>Yes</u></b> / No</p> <p>Solemn Celebrations                    <b><u>Yes</u></b> / No</p> <p>-----</p>
<p><b>Liturgy of the Word</b></p> <p>First Reading</p> <p>Psalm</p> <p>Second Reading</p> <p>Gospel Acclamation Gospel</p> <p><b>Homily</b></p> <p><b>Prayer of the Faithful</b></p>	<p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the use of the Lectionary for Children.</li> <li>• consideration of a first reading, a responsorial psalm, and gospel, rather than using three readings (Sunday).</li> <li>• readers are well prepared beforehand, including the use of the microphone.</li> </ul> <p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• each reading concludes with the phrase “The Word of the Lord”.</li> </ul> <p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Psalm is sung (a Hymn is not used unless the Hymn is a Psalm).</li> <li>• instead of saying “Response” at the beginning of the Psalm and after each verse, the reader/cantor <b>looks up</b>. People know to repeat the response.</li> </ul> <p>[As per first reading]</p> <p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Gospel acclamation is sung (or omitted).</li> </ul> <p><b>Do ensure :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the prayers are already on the lectern, children are well prepared to read them and in the use of the microphone.</li> <li>• petitions respond to the readings of the Mass – who should we be praying for? How should we be acting?</li> <li>• petitions are addressed to the People (don’t begin “Dear Jesus”).</li> <li>• petitions identify the needs of the Church, the world, those in need, local community and seek help from the Lord.</li> <li>• it is traditional for the final intention to pray for the dead.</li> <li>• a simple formula is used e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “We pray for those who are sick, that they may know the healing and peace of God [PAUSE] Lord, hear us”.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>The Liturgy of the Eucharist</b></p>	
<p>Preparation of the Gifts</p>	<p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the gifts brought to the altar are those that will be used at the altar: bread and wine.</li> <li>• gifts for the poor and for the Church may also be brought forward these are put in a suitable place away from the Eucharistic table.</li> <li>• music reflects the season, the feast or our desire to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ (hymn or instrumental) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ music ends before/as the Priest washes his hands.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• gift bearers are well prepared and know to bow in reverence before returning to their seats.</li> </ul>
<p>The Eucharistic Prayer (NB 3 Eucharistic Prayers for Children)</p>	<p>The priority for <b>singing</b> the parts of the Mass belong to the Gloria, the Gospel Acclamation, the Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation, the Great Amen and the Lamb of God, using the current translations in English or Te Reo.</p>
<p>Parts of the Mass to sing (or say)</p>	<p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the parts of the Mass are provided on PowerPoint, with the sung <b>responses highlighted.</b></li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Holy, Holy</li> <li>2. Memorial Acclamation</li> <li>3. Great Amen</li> <li>4. Lamb of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the Lamb of God immediately follows the Sign of Peace</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p>Communion Rite (88f)</p>	
<p>Our Father</p>	
<p>Sign of Peace</p>	<p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children are well prepared to enter the ritual of exchanging the Sign of Peace with only three or four people closest to them.</li> </ul>
<p>Communion Procession</p>	<p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• music for the Communion Procession is simple, reflective and repetitive, focused on a communion theme or thanksgiving.</li> <li>• time is given for silent prayer.</li> </ul>
<p>----- <b>Concluding Rites</b></p>	<p>-----</p> <p><b>Do ensure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the recessional hymn (optional) reflects the message of the Gospel and sends us out on mission as witnesses to Jesus.</li> </ul>