

## What is Children's Liturgy of the Word?

Making the Word of God from the liturgy of the Sunday accessible to children.

### Chapter 2 Masses With Adults in Which Children Also Participate

17. Nevertheless, in Masses of this kind it is necessary to take great care that the children present do not feel neglected because of their inability to participate or to understand what happens and what is proclaimed in the celebration. Some account should be taken of their presence: for example, by speaking to them directly in the introductory comments (as at the beginning and the end of Mass) and at some point in the homily.

Sometimes, moreover, if the place itself and the nature of the community permit, 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.

*Extract from the [Directory for Masses with Children](#), Congregation for Divine Worship.*

Children's Liturgy of the Word is part of the Mass and is only separate in its location.

- It is most appropriate that the Gathering, Entrance and Greeting, is carried out with the entire community, adults and children present.
- The breakaway from the adult community must be visible and carried out with a certain dignity.
- The children are sent out to their meeting place to participate in a Children's Liturgy of the Word where the word of God is proclaimed and broken open for them at an age appropriate level.
- The children re-join the main assembly after the Prayer of the Faithful.
- Liaison between the Children's Liturgy of the Word team and the priest is necessary so that the departure and return of the children is reverent and easy for all.

*Extract from [Gather Around](#) Guidelines for Children's Liturgy of the Word, Archdiocese of Perth Liturgical Guidelines, page 12.*

Please contact me if you'd like to chat about setting up or reviewing your Children's Liturgy of the Word practices.

Caterina O'Loughlin E: [officer.cfl@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:officer.cfl@perthcatholic.org.au) M: 0417 955 156



## The Importance of Gospel Reflection in Children's Liturgy of the Word Preparation.

The theme of the Sunday Eucharist is taken from the Gospel of that Sunday. A central part of the preparation of the Children's Liturgy of the Word is to reflect on the Gospel. The Opening prayer, songs and Breaking Open the Word are also prepared to support the central message of the Gospel of a given Sunday.

Consult some resources to better understand the message of the Gospel, and ways to communicate this message to children at their level.

### Decide on the Theme

- The theme is only a few words.
- Keep it simple.
- Make it visual.
- Help children remember the message.

*Extract from [Gather Around](#) Guidelines for Children's Liturgy of the Word, Archdiocese of Perth Liturgical Guidelines, page 19.*

## Resources for Gospel Reflection

Resources for Gospel message at children's level:

- **Books**

See Appendix in [Gather Around](#) Guidelines for Children's Liturgy of the Word, Archdiocese of Perth Liturgical Guidelines.

Your parish or associated school will likely have a range of books for Children's Liturgy of the Word with the Gospel message at children's level.

- **Online**

[CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development](#) (England and Wales)

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

Prayers and resources for children's liturgy.

[Sermons4kids](#) [www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com)

Free worksheets and activity pages.

Subscription Plus service required for access to videos and other resources.

Resources for adult Gospel reflection:

- **Online**

[Pastoral Liturgy, Formation and Resources for Lectionary-Based Worship](#)

<https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/pastoral-liturgy/>

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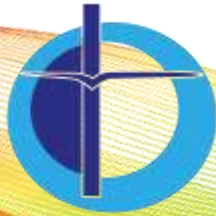
[Bishop Robert Barron - Word on Fire](#)

<https://www.wordonfire.org/reflections/>

*Subscribe for daily gospel readings and reflections directly to your inbox*

- **Phone app**

[Universalis app](#) (small charge involved)



Centre for Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Perth

# MINISTRY REVISIT AND REVIEW 2022

## Personal Reflection Activity

Do I read Scripture regularly?

The practice of [Lectio Divina](#) is an ancient prayer practice which originated in the early Church among Christians who wished to contemplate the Sacred Scriptures.

Read the Gospel of the Sunday you are next leading from the Lectionary for Masses with Children. You may like to use [Lectio Divina](#).

What do you think is the theme of the Gospel?

Now consult a resource – try one you haven't used before from above (ensure the readings are the same).

How does your view on the theme compare to the theme in the resource?

How can you make the theme visual and active to try and help the children remember it?  
[Gather Around](#) pages 32 &, 35.