

Children's Liturgy

Resource Guide 2022



Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh

Children's Liturgy

If you are intending to become a Children's Liturgy leader in your Parish, thank you!

Members of the Archdiocesan Commission on Catechetics, have produced this updated resource for Children's Liturgy Leaders to help you make the most of your time with young parishioners in our Archdiocese.

As well as information on how to become a Children's Liturgy Leader, we post a weekly resource sheet that may be used to help deliver Children's Liturgy.* You will need your own copy of the Children's Lectionary. This and other useful resources are listed in this document.

The resources are aimed primarily at supporting new Children's Liturgy Leaders, or those who may occasionally be short of time to prepare. Feel free to have a look and use the resources that suit your needs.

Fr Daniel Doherty
Vicar Episcopal of the Catechetics Commission

Contact: VEcatechetics@staned.org.uk

*The Children's Liturgy resource is posted each week at www.archedinburgh.org/new-events and on the Archdiocesan Facebook page (search @EdinburghRCdiocese) and Twitter (@archedinburgh)



FAQs

How do I become a Children's Liturgy Leader?

- Complete a volunteer application form and provide the names of two referees (these referees will be contacted by the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team)
- Complete a PVG application specifically for voluntary work with the Archdiocese (or make a PVG update application specifically for voluntary work with the Archdiocese, if already in possession of a PVG for other regulated work whether paid or voluntary).
- Give your application forms to your parish coordinator who will pass them to the Archdiocese.
- Attend Archdiocesan Safeguarding Induction Training Part 1
- Once these three requirements are met, the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team will issue an approval letter to the volunteer with copies to the relevant Parish Priest and Parish Safeguarding Coordinator. The prospective volunteer must not start their role until the approval letter has been issued.

What is the target age range for Children's Liturgy?

The target age range is children of primary school age specifically from p1 to p5 inclusive. As such resources are aimed at this age group (at the discretion of the Parish Priest younger children may attend).

What is the position regarding Safeguarding if parents wish to accompany their children to Children's Liturgy?

If parents wish to accompany their own child(ren), it must be made clear to them that they are only responsible for their own children and cannot take any responsibility for any other children present. They cannot, for example, take any children to the toilet (other than their own children). Parents looking after their own children do not need a PVG. They are not volunteers and are only occupied in looking after their own children. Also, they do not count in the volunteer adult to child ratio.



Why does the Children’s Liturgy template (*see page 9*) not say that children should assemble on the sanctuary on return to the church after the Offertory Procession for some discussion with the Priest?

Although this used to happen, the current Archdiocesan guidance is that the children should quietly return to their seats after attending their Liturgy.



Children's Liturgy- Guidance Notes for Leaders

There must always be at least two leaders in attendance with the children.

Children's Liturgy Leaders must be:

- Adults with a current PVG with the Archdiocese – relating to voluntary work with children. (Please note that a PVG relevant to your occupation or any other voluntary work with other charities will not suffice). Arrange with your Parish Coordinator to obtain a PVG with the Archdiocese and complete a volunteer application form providing the names of two referees prior to commencing as a Children's Liturgy Leader. There is no cost, as the church is a registered charity. In addition, all volunteers are asked to renew this PVG every 5 years.
- Adults who have attended the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Training. This is initially, Level 1 Induction Training. Following this, volunteers are expected to attend Level 2 Training within 18 months of completion of Level 1.
- Familiar with the policies and procedures outlined in the document "In God's image" produced by the Bishop's conference of Scotland relating to "Safeguarding in the Catholic Church". (www.bcos.org.uk/safeguarding)
- Familiar with the relevant "risk assessments" relating to their own individual parish setting. You may commence as a Children's Liturgy Leader only when fulfilling all of the above and when authorized to do so by the relevant Parish Coordinator, on receipt of an approval letter issued by the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer.

As a new volunteer you will usually work with a more experienced leader who will help and support you. Where Children's Liturgy is already established in your parish, you will also have the support of your parish team of Children's Liturgy Leaders.



Resources, Reading and Notes for Children's Liturgy Leaders

The Lectionary is essential: *Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted For Children.*

You will need a separate copy for Years A, B and C. The Scripture texts have been adapted by Sister Paule Freeburg, DC and comply with the official Directory for Masses with Children from the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship. The publisher in Great Britain is Viewpoint Resources Direct.

Although the Gospel passages are written in the other leaders' guide books, the Gospel should be read from The Lectionary.

The Priest presents the Lectionary to The Children's Liturgy Leader to lead the children to the place where their Liturgy will be held. Within this place the Lectionary should be displayed in a prominent position. You will need candles and a crucifix. In addition, it is suggested that the appropriate liturgical colour e.g. green (ordinary time) , purple (Lent) etc. may be displayed in the room and explained to the children.

There are a variety of books available

These include:

-Sunday Weekly Leader Guide. Sundays, Feast Days & Solemnities Year (A/B/C), by Brusselmans, Freeburg, Matthews & Walker; published by T. Shand Publications Ltd.

This is an older reference and you need to purchase a separate book for each liturgical year.



-The Complete Children's Liturgy Book, by Thomson, published by Kevin Mayhew.

This is a comprehensive programme for every Sunday of the Lectionary, written by As the name suggests this covers every Sunday for all three liturgical years in one book. It has illustrated worksheets which may be photocopied for the purpose for which they are intended, without infringing copyright. Everything else is copyright so may not be reproduced. It is particularly good for use with younger children.

Welcome the Word. A fully worked out children's programme for every Sunday of the Lectionary, by Brown SND, published by Kevin Mayhew.

This comes complete with a CD-ROM which can be used to print out activity worksheets.

Online Resources

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

This free resource contains a weekly Children's Liturgy page with prayers, songs and questions to help the children reflect on the Gospel and it may be freely adapted by CL leaders.

Newsprint Resources

This includes the weekly publication in the Scottish Catholic Observer.

Reading

The Diocese of Westminster has an excellent website resource including comprehensive background information on Children's Liturgy, weekly sheets and useful documents such as:

<https://rcdow.org.uk> Essential Quick Guide to Children's Liturgy.



<https://liturgyoffice.org.uk> has an excellent reference *Liturgy of the Word with Children*, from the Liturgy Office, Bishop's Conference of England and Wales which is certainly worth reading.

This list is not exhaustive, of course, and the Catechetics Commission from the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh has produced its own online weekly Children's Liturgy resource. We welcome suggestions and comments from those currently involved in Children's Liturgy and from clergy.



Children's Liturgy Template

Title -Liturgical Date e.g. nth Sunday in ordinary time Year (A/B/C), calendar date

Eg 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A), Sunday 12th May 2020

Introduction

The introduction should refer to the key points of the Gospel of the day. It would also be appropriate to refer to and briefly explain the particular liturgical season e.g. Advent or Lent or special Feast Day where relevant. In addition in Advent, for example, we also explain the Advent wreath.

Make the Sign of the Cross

It's a sign of the love that God has for us For young children especially, it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.

Light the Candles

(an adult lights the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week and if they have been kind to each other, helpful to parents, brothers, sisters, listened to their teachers etc. Lead the children in singing the 'sorry song'.

Gloria (except in ADVENT or LENT)

You may choose to say or sing an appropriate adaptation of the Gloria from any Children's Liturgy resource.

Gospel Acclamation

You may choose an appropriate song from your chosen CL resource "Let us stand to welcome today's Gospel".



Gospel

Select the correct Gospel verses from the Children's Lectionary.

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N"

Explain and demonstrate - Make three crosses

one on your forehead

one on your lips

one on your heart as we say together: "Glory to You, O Lord".

At the end of the Gospel respond - "Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ".

Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Use open questions to encourage discussion and allow the children to say what they have understood from the Word of God.

What? Where? How? Why?

Optional

Dependent on time constraints you may include three or four bidding prayers (prepared by CL Leaders or ask the children who or what they would like to pray for)

"Lord, In Your mercy" - all respond - "Hear our prayer"

Again, depending on the time available there may be a poster or activity/picture to colour to take away. Use the relevant CL resource for ideas and again this would be pre-prepared by the CL leaders.

Some resources have sheets which can be photocopied with pictures for colouring. Any activity undertaken must highlight and reinforce the Gospel message and should not be a distraction from it.



Closing Prayer

There are options for this for each date in the relevant CL resource book or you may compose your own prayer relevant to the day's Gospel.

End prayer with an 'Amen'

Select four volunteers for the Offertory Procession. Those not in the procession should quietly return to sit with their family or guardian after the gifts have been presented to the Priest.

