

## Involving Children in our Liturgical Moments

*“The Christian communities to which the individual families belong or in which the children live also have a responsibility toward children baptised in the Church. By giving witness to the Gospel, living communal charity, and actively celebrating the mysteries of Christ, the Christian community is an excellent school of Christian and liturgical formation for the children who live in it.”*

Directory for Masses with Children 11

*Sharing faith with the young is the work of the whole Christian community, a responsibility it is happy to undertake and to invest its energy in.*

Share the Good News 91

### **What can we do as parish communities?**

- Have we asked parents about their hopes for their family in church?
- Have we ever spoken to parents about our hopes for them and their families in church?

### **We can also**

- Create an atmosphere of welcome ...for children, parents, family groups
- Encourage what they can do
- Have resources that speak to their age-group...
- Appreciate children’s limits and plan for that
- Look at our liturgies and the choices that we can make in order to welcome younger members.
- Develop intergenerational ministries, shared by an adult and child e.g. Prayer of the Faithful, Bringing the gifts of bread and wine to the altar, preparing the altar
- Have music that is child-friendly e.g. from the Grow in Love programme, or with easy chorus
- Involve children in processions.
- Use visual, physical, tangible elements in our prayer e.g. Jesse tree, Advent wreath, focal spaces
- Develop a team of people who bring children out for their own Liturgy of the Word

### **Possible ministries for children:**

- Preparing the church...and tidying up afterwards
- Altar Servers
- Readers
- Music/choir

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

The purpose is to enable children grow toward the celebration of Mass with adults. It is an opportunity for children up to First Communion age to come apart from the general congregation for the Liturgy of the Word. The readings of the day are explored with children in a way that is age-appropriate. There is a time of prayer and also a time to express their understanding of the readings creatively.

### ***Why would you have a Children's liturgy of the word***

- Because Children do not always find their experiences with adults intelligible;
- Because the words and rites of the liturgy have not been written for children;
- Because it allows children to be present and engaged at their level, and it allows the adults to hear and attend to the readings and the homily.

## Resources

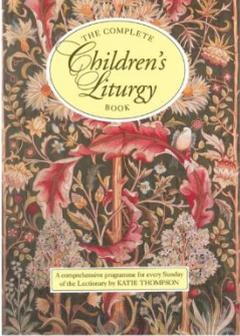
### Our Family Mass

- Looks at each Sunday Mass of the year
- Introductory notes for seasons
- Format
  - Welcome
  - Theme
- Introduction to readings
- Homily suggestions
- Prayer of the faithful
- Reflection/Thinking Prayer



### Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Foundational for Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Clear presentation of all elements
  - Introduction
  - Saying Sorry
  - Gloria
  - Listening to the Word of God
  - Discussion



### Redemptorist Publications

#### LOOK CHILDREN'S LITURGY LEAFLET

Perfect for children's liturgy in a parish or for primary schools.

Look is a lively full-coloured weekly newsletter for children aged 3-7 years. Reflecting the theme of the Sunday Gospel, Look engages and interests children as their understanding of their faith develops. Look contains a great variety of stories, activities, drawings and colouring work that enhance the message of the Gospel for each Sunday.

Creative ways to help catechise children.



### My Bible Colouring Book by Shirley Dobson

An excellent colouring book covering all the major events in the bible with a scripture verse to go with each picture, we occasionally adapt the pictures to go with the gospel that we are doing, by changing the scripture verse.

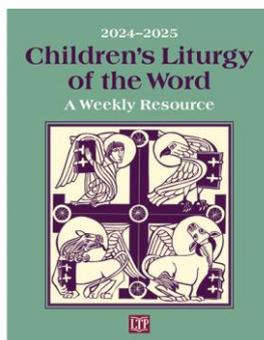
### [www.pontificalmissionsociety.ie](http://www.pontificalmissionsociety.ie)

This is an official church group whose role is to promote mission awareness and assist missionary activity. They have parish and children's resources to support Mission Sunday

### <https://cafod.org.uk/education/kidz-zone>

As **Trócaire** is the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in Ireland, **Cafod** is the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. They have many child-friendly videos, play sheets and games to support children understanding the role of justice in our faith. Resources for Children's Liturgy of the Word -

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/children-s-liturgy>



### Children's Liturgy of the Word 2024-2025

#### A Weekly Resource

*Mary Beth Jambor*

# Some suggestions!?!

## **Talk to parents....guardians....families .....primary teachers**

---

- Use our senses...sight, taste, touch, hearing, smell
- Use what children and families and all of us know.....music, words, images
- Include one family friendly hymn at each mass....use a blend of music from the Grow in Love programme and also music of the faith community.
- Involve children/families in the ministries
- Invite families to occupy the front rows of the church so that children can see and hear the celebrant, see what is happening, can listen more attentively to the homily

1. Look at your specific role in parish....is there a way to make it more 'family-friendly', to be more inclusive of all age-groups in parish?
2. Ask the PPC/liturgy group to have a conversation re the 'family-friendliness' of our Sunday Mass celebration
3. Invite parents and others in the parish to share their hopes and dreams for their families

**What are  
you to do  
now?**