## LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN IS:

**A liturgical celebration** – ritual prayer (not religious instruction or 'child minding'), with the principles of good liturgy (active participation, clear symbols, etc). A ritual centred on the proclamation and breaking open of the scriptures, God's Word, at an appropriate level.

**A Liturgy of the Word** - a ritual centred on the proclamation and breaking open of the scriptures, God's Word, at an appropriate level. The children do what the rest of the community is doing at this point of the Mass: they listen as God speaks to them through the scriptures proclaimed, consider what God's message is for their lives, and respond in various ways through prayer, praise, thanksgiving. It is an experience of prayer, of encounter and dialogue with God. It aims to help lead children to full, conscious and active participation in the parish liturgy - activity sheets can be useful as take-home material for family follow-up, but they are not appropriate to be used during a liturgical celebration.

## GUIDELINES (Vatican, National, Diocesan)

- Directory for Masses with Children (Vatican)
- Guidelines for Liturgy of the Word with Children (Liturgy Office)
- <u>Liturgy of the Word with Children</u> (Resources, guidelines & links)
- Ministering the Liturgy of the Word to Children at Mass (Liturgy Office)
- Liturgy of the Word with Children (Archdiocese of Birmingham)
- Liturgy of the Word with Children (Archdiocese of Westminster)
- Liturgy of the Word with Children (Archdiocese of Adelaide)

## RESOURCES

- At Home with the Word: Questions for reflection and activities
- <u>Lifelong Catechesis</u> (Our Sunday Visitor): Scripture background, questions for reflection, activities
- <u>Liturgy of the Word with Children</u> (Archdiocese of Westminster), Guidelines, reflections, ideas for sharing the Gospel, prayers
- <u>Liturgy of the Word with Children</u> (Diocese of Auckland)
- Guildford Parish Children's Liturgy: Resources & links
- Children's Liturgy Videos (Dominican Sisters of St Joseph)
- CAFOD resources for Children's Liturgy
- In Communion with Christ Liturgy Office, Reflections on the Mass for families

## ARTICLES

• The Liturgy is for (little) Kids by Timothy P. O'Malley)

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