

## Who can help?

Anyone can help at Children's Liturgy, provided they can express warmth and empathy with the children.

## Assistant Role

Being an "Assistant" means that you do not have to prepare or lead the liturgy. Just be there to help.

As you might expect, there is a particular way of working with the children. A guide is available. If you wish to become a leader, then support is available.

## Liturgy Leader's Role

Ideally, leaders read the readings during the week before so that they can reflect upon the most appropriate examples to illustrate the Liturgy with the children. Resource books are available. Preparation does not take a long time.

Helping is subject to the church's Safeguarding Children policy; the liturgy co-ordinators will assist new leaders with the formality that, for everyone, includes a Criminal Records Bureau check.

## Contacts

If you have any questions about Children's Liturgy please ask one of the coordinators below.

To find out more about helping please contact the liturgy coordinator at the Mass you wish to help at.

You can do this after Mass or via the Parish office on 01329 318869



April 2011



Liturgy of the Word  
with Children  
in  
Fareham  
Sacred Heart and St Philip Howard



## Liturgy of the Word with Children is ...

a time for children to be fully engaged in the liturgy by using language and approaches that are more easily understood than the Liturgy of the Word of the whole congregation.

It is so important for children to feel involved that all the Bishops of England and Wales recommend a liturgy to be held in a separate, but close-by, room.

It would not be correct to regard Children's Liturgy as instruction or merely an activity to pass the time.

A banner used in Children's Liturgy at Sacred Heart church



**I am sorry..... You are forgiven...**



### Shape of the Liturgy

The format includes proclaiming a version of the Gospel, reflecting about its meaning and then responding in prayer. Usually there will be a time to think about the happiness that they have brought to others during the week,..... and usually an activity related to the Gospel story.

After the Liturgy the children usually bring in the offertory gifts.



Parents are encouraged to continue the reflection on the Gospel with their children; this can be while going home or once at home. This can be particularly valuable if parents share their own experience and reflection of the Word with their family. This reinforces the

to assist with the understanding of Luke 7 36-50

child's reflection on the Word of God and links the child's experience to the parents'.

### Who can join in?

Generally, children over 3 can join in if they can listen and take part. It is also important that the child is comfortable in the liturgy. Children who are younger or with limited attention can attend with a parent, but it is not a crèche; it is not a space for giving food or general care.

In our church, children who have made their Holy Communion are not expected to continue to attend. In other parishes, or if we had more liturgists then we could arrange liturgy for a wider range of children.

### Practical Aspects with the Liturgy

As part of good practice when working with children away from their parents, we need a register of attendance to be kept. Parents are asked to sign their child in each Sunday by writing their name in the register book in the church entrance.

In Sacred Heart church, name badges are also used so that everyone can be addressed personally. Parents are asked to select the child's badge and to put it on them before Mass.

If a child needs to go to the toilet the leader or assistant will usually return the child to his/her parent for their help.

