



RCIC PROGRAMME

Unit 10 - WE CELEBRATE (4)



The Liturgy of the Word

AIMS

1. To understand that as Christians we come together to **celebrate** every time we gather for the **Holy Mass**.
2. To understand the **need** and **duty** to take part in the celebration of the Mass **every** Sunday.
3. To start exploring the different parts of the Mass particularly the **LITURGY OF THE WORD**.



KEY WORDS

- Liturgy of the Word
- First Reading
- Psalm
- Second Reading
- Acclamation
- Gospel

INTRODUCTION

- When we gather together in church we celebrate the MASS/EUCHARIST (show Flashcard/ image). Brainstorm for ideas about what we do in church, who goes to church, who do we meet in church, different parts of the mass etc. Explain that in this session and the coming two we are going to talk about the different parts of the Holy Mass. This will help us understand what goes on in church so we can take part as best we can and get ready for our First Holy Communion.
- Go through the different parts of the front side of Worksheet 10. Spend some time talking about the Introductory rite and the Penitential rite (see PowerPoint slides) when we say sorry for our sins and ask God to have mercy on us.

RESOURCES

- Flashcards with the Key words shown above.
- Missalets used in the parish church.
- Display/poster for Key words
- Worksheet 10

MAIN

- Introduce the focus of today's session: the LITURGY OF THE WORD. Point out that when we meet friends we talk to them and we also listen to them. It's a two way relationship. Ask children to give examples about how could we LISTEN to our friend Jesus talking to us. Elicit the fact that one of the main ways is by reading or listening to readings from the Bible. This is what we do in the LITURGY OF THE WORD.
- Talk about the various readings read during the Mass. First comes the FIRST READING. This is usually taken from the Old Testament. The reader starts by proclaiming the book from which the reading is taken. For example: A reading from the prophet Isaiah. If available a missalet could be given to every child to be able to follow the different readings and prayers referred to about in this session. At the end of the reading the reader says, 'The Word of the Lord'. We respond 'Thanks be to God.' We thank God for speaking to us. This is followed by the PSALM. We repeat the response after each verse. Using the missalet you could practice and read the psalm for that Sunday. The SECOND READING then follows. This is usually taken from the New Testament, usually from the letters of the Apostles. Point out that at times some Bible readings may be difficult to understand. Many parishes organize the Sunday Liturgy for children or provide simplified missaletes for children. We then stand to greet the Gospel. The GOSPEL ACCLAMATION is sung or read. The priest then reads the GOSPEL. Briefly talk about the 4 Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - four people who wrote about Jesus from different points of view. Using the missalet practice the responses at the beginning and at the end of the Gospel reading too. After the Gospel we usually sit for the HOMILY. This is when the priest talks to us to help us understand the Bible readings better and to show how we should put what God says to us in real life situations.
- We then stand for the CREED. We say the Creed to profess what we believe in. Go through the it using the missalet or the Prayer Book and briefly talk about the main statements.
- The last part of the Liturgy of the Word is when we pray the BIDDING PRAYERS or PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL. These are our invocations to God - we ask him to help us in all our needs and may be related to the day's liturgy.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Put the Bible in a central prominent place or on a lectern. Light a candle and explain this is to show our respect to the written word of God. Read the passage of Martha and Mary (Luke 10: 38-42) and briefly comment on Jesus' words and his wish for people to listen to his word.
- Invite children to come forward to kiss the Bible as a sign of their wish to listen and follow what God says in it.

NOTES

Also see PowerPoint Presentation about the Holy Mass on the SDC Website www.sdc.me/resources.

ACTIVITY

- Remind children about the importance of taking part in the celebration of the Mass every Sunday. Ask questions about ways how we 'take part' in this celebration. Invite them to pay more attention to the readings at mass on the coming Sunday and to talk to their parents and other family members about them.