

With Hearts Full of Promise and Joy
Me te Ngākau Harikoa
Liturgy with Children
Ritenga mō ngā Tamariki

This new publication recognises that our children are a welcome and integral part of the Sunday liturgical assembly: that the celebration of Eucharist is a transformative ritual, where the community is formed and reformed into the Body of Christ through Word and Sacrament and sent forth to pour out their lives in his memory for the sake of the world. It identifies the importance of the way children learn to be Catholic as they watch, listen, experience and gradually come to participate in the ritual words, spoken and sung, the silences, actions and symbols of the Church's liturgy. Therefore, this resource sets out to assist parishes, schools and those involved in the preparation of liturgies with children to ensure that our tamariki are truly welcome and the liturgies we celebrate include them as active participants.

With Hearts Full of Promise and Joy, Me te Ngākau Harikoa reprints with permission, *The Directory for Masses with Children* and *The Introduction to the Lectionary for Masses with Children*. These two documents outline the principles that are central to the sound preparation of liturgies with children. They also indicate those areas where flexibility can and should be exercised so that the beauty of scriptures and the mystery of the Church's rituals can be more readily accessible to the children.

The *New Zealand Guidelines for the Preparation and Celebration of Liturgies with Children* form the third part of this resource. These Guidelines refer to and build on the *Directory* and the *Introduction to the Lectionary* to offer practical assistance to priests, teachers, parents and liturgy teams. They draw on the expertise and research of experienced liturgists and practitioners, both national and international. These Guidelines may also be used for lectionary-based catechesis, prayer services at home, in the parish or in the classroom. A Preparation Summary and a Preparation Checklist are offered at the end of this section. These templates may be freely copied.

Highlights from each of these three sections have been offered in their own margin to enable key points to stand out for the reader and provide space for notes.

Finally, *With Hearts Full of Promise and Joy, Me te Ngākau Harikoa* includes the Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children, in English and in Māori, approved for interim use in Aotearoa New Zealand.

E te iwi whakapono, it is the hope of the Bishops of New Zealand, that this will be a useful resource to all those engaged in the wonderful ministry of liturgy with children; Ritenga mō ngā Tamariki.