

Liturgy of the Word

Lectio Divina – Holy Listening

Lectio Divina, or Holy Listening is promoted as a way of hearing God's Word. It is listening with the heart.

1. Listen attentively as the Word is read, or as you read it.
 2. Notice any word or phrase that seems to stand out or makes you think or feel something. Hold on to it mentally.
 3. When the reading is finished, repeat that word or phrase in your mind, almost as if you are taking it for a walk.
 4. When that time of prayer is ended, just let the words go.
- In this prayer, we come to meet our God who walks with us. When we encounter the Word of God, we are changed.. Spend a little time in Lectio Divina – Holy Listening at the end of the readings.*

SONG: We are Companions on the Journey © Carey Landry <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfYZCOXFmoQ&t=81s>

SIGN OF THE CROSS: In name of the Father... OR **Ki te ingoa...** Tēnā Koutou Katoa . Welcome Everyone. Today is the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time and the 6th of September. The month of September is also the Season of Creation, a time to give thought to how we impact the planet by the way we live. It is also Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to all the Dad's. Thank you for the care you show to children. It is our joy to be called together now to celebrate this Liturgy of the Word. We are hungry pilgrims coming to be fed at the table of God's Word.

READER: Wherever 2 or 3 are gathered, Christ is present there. Let us pause a moment to be aware of Christ's presence with us now.

You have made us creatures who depend for our life, on the life of plants and animals, Lord have mercy
(All) Lord have mercy

You have made us creatures whose life depends on water to drink and air to breathe, Christ have mercy
(All) Christ have mercy

You have made us creatures who depend on the warmth of loving relationships, Lord have mercy
(All) Lord have mercy

READER: Look at the pictures for a few moments. *'All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.'* A Prayer for our Earth

DISCUSS: What do you see?
Where and how is God present?



COLLECT/OPENING PRAYER: Thank you for your thoughts. Let's take a few moments now to bring to mind all we want to pray for. *(Allow silence - 1 minute)*

O God by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Thus says the LORD:

You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me.

If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die,"

and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way,

the wicked shall die for his guilt,

but I will hold you responsible for his death.

But if you warn the wicked,

trying to turn them from their way,

and they refuse to turn from their way,

they shall die for their guilt,

but you shall save yourself.

I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

The Word of the Lord – **Ko te kupu a te Ariki**

ALL: Thanks be to God - **Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

Silence: Consider: What is 'wicked' in today's world?

PSALM: 96 - If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zg6rsCw2aHc>

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-10

Brothers and sisters:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another;

for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery;

you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,"

and whatever other commandment there may be,

are summed up in this saying, namely,

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Love does no evil to the neighbor;

hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

The Word of the Lord – **Ko te kupu a te Ariki**

ALL: Thanks be to God – **Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

Silence: *Who is our neighbour? Can our love extend to the created world itself?*

"Who is my neighbour?" or
"Who is behaving as neighbour?"



GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If your brother or sister sins against you,

go and tell them their fault between you and them alone.

If they listen to you, you have won over your brother or sister.

If they do not listen,

take one or two others along with you,

so that 'every fact may be established

on the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

If they refuse to listen to them, tell the church.
If they refuse to listen even to the church,
then treat them as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.
Amen, I say to you,
whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
Again, amen, I say to you,
if two of you agree on earth
about anything for which they are to pray,
it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.
For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them."

The Gospel of the Lord - ***Ko te rongopai a te Ariki***

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ - ***Kia whakanuia rā koe e Hēhu Karaiti.***

SILENT REFLECTION: Recall a few words from the readings that seemed to stand out as you read or listened. Sit quietly and let these words go over and over in your mind – *Lectio Divina. (3 minutes)*

READER: The two readings below both come from the Papal Document Laudato Si. We will read each one then discuss them.

'Humanity has entered a new era in which our technical prowess has brought us to a crossroads. We are the beneficiaries of two centuries of enormous waves of change: steam engines, railways, the telegraph, electricity, automobiles, aeroplanes, chemical industries, modern medicine, information technology and, more recently, the digital revolution, robotics, biotechnologies and nanotechnologies. It is right to rejoice in these advances and to be excited by the immense possibilities which they continue to open up before us, for "science and technology are wonderful products of a God-given human creativity"'

Laudato Si #102

Question: *What do we love about the gifts science and technology have given our world?*

READER: *Together with our obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly, we are called to recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God's eyes: "by their mere existence they bless him and give him glory", and indeed, "the Lord rejoices in all his works" (Ps 104:31). By virtue of our unique dignity and our gift of intelligence, we are called to respect creation and its inherent laws, for "the Lord by wisdom founded the earth" (Prov 3:19).* Laudato Si #69

question *When do I consider 'other living beings'?*

DISCUSS: What responses do we have to the readings, the questions or the images?



Prayer of the Faithful – as a people baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

For the Church – that the baptized conscientiously discern what is unjust, speak out against injustices and act to bring about a more loving and equitable world.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For world leaders – that they listen to their people, use their power to care for those who are vulnerable, and create safety and autonomy for indigenous communities.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For the unity of Christian people – that all who call themselves Christian seek unity, and strive to overcome divisions that have grown up between people of different denominations.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For an end to the Covid-19 pandemic – that a vaccine be found and justly distributed, and that people whose mental wellbeing has suffered in this time be supported by family, friends and neighbours.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For Aotearoa New Zealand in this election year – that the needs of the poor, including the planet which Pope Francis refers to as among the poorest of the poor, are given priority.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For fathers – that they be an encouraging, affirming, guiding, loving presence in their children's lives.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For an integral ecology – that each one of us seeks to live our lives out of an awareness, understanding and appreciation of the dignity and connectedness of all life.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

O God listen to our voice. In your kind mercy, help us to keep your commandments. May we grow stronger in loving our neighbour and caring for our world. May we be people who seek reconciliation and healing in all things. We ask this through your Son Jesus who lives and dwells with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit ... Amen

READER: *Let's pray together, this prayer for fathers and then pray the Lord's Prayer.*

God our Father, thank you for all fathers.

Bless them.

May they learn to balance work, family and faith.

May they be tender, protecting children from harm while also encouraging them to live life fully.

May they be strong in love, generous in compassion and wise in the ways of life.

Our Father who art in heaven ...

COLLECTION: *Part of our commitment as Christian is to give to those in need. Discuss who is in need of our help. Below are some ideas.*

- **Your Parish:** your parish and presbytery still have operating costs.
- **The Caring Foundation Covid-19 appeal** to donate, click [here](#)
- **Catholic Social Services Auckland** to donate, click [here](#)
- **The Catholic aid agency Caritas** to support their work, click [here](#)
- **St Vincent de Paul** contact your parish or click [here](#)

Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your participation. Let us go in peace to love and serve God.
Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG: Laudato Si – (get up and dance along 😊) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8gkVwFeUwo>

Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L2oC1h75QQ>