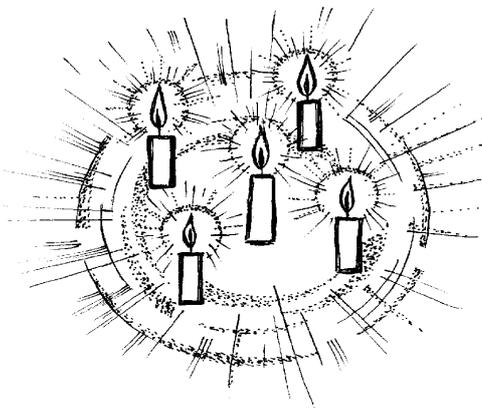


Spirit of the Season

Winter Ordinary Time 2001

www.liturgy.demon.co.uk/soj.html



THE ENCOUNTER cert U

showing Friday 2 February

GETTING IN TOUCH

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We know the feast as The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple or Candlemas, but it is still known throughout the Eastern Church as The Encounter. It is a Universal feast.

This year why not make a great *Collective Act of Worship* or *Whole School Liturgy* that 2 February.

Set 40 days after Christmas, following St Luke's calculations, it is the last of the 'showings' of the Jesus to the world. In the last few weeks we have heard about the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord.

The feast is best known for its use of candles – processions and blessings. The procession dates back to 386CE in Jerusalem.

Celebrating

- *Adapt the following ideas.*
- *It may not be sensible for every child to have a candle but one candle for each class is possible.*
- *This liturgy involves a procession, following the lighted candle, you will need to decide where to start and where to finish.*

Gathering A song about light.

Greeting and Introduction

Scripture Luke 2:22-22-40 or Luke 2: 22-32. *Drama?*

Blessing of candle(s)

Almighty God,
true light of the world
and source of light eternal,
shine upon the hearts of the faithful,
that all in this place
who are brightened by the glow of
these candles

may advance with joy toward the
light of your glory.

We ask this through Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

Processional Song: Share the light
(Bernadette Farrell) or any song
about sharing the Good News.

Planning the academic year 2001/2002?

Here are some dates you may find useful:

- 1 November – All Saints – Thursday 2001
- 2 December – 1st Sunday of Advent 2001
- 13 February – Ash Wednesday 2002
- 31 March – Easter Sunday 2002
- 9 May – Ascension Thursday 2002
- 19 May – Pentecost Sunday 2002
- 30 May – Body and Blood of the Lord 2002
- 30 June – SS Peter and Paul (Sunday) 2002

SHROVE TUESDAY 'A CLASS THING!'

With many Schools faced with liturgies on Ash Wednesday, either as a whole school or in large gatherings, Shrove Tuesday tends to be taken care of in the classroom area.

Mardi Gras – or Shrove Tuesday, is the day on which to be shaven, or absolved, of our sins in preparation for Lent. But other cultures have more fun with it: Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) and Carnivale (goodbye to the meat), a day to go a little crazy if you plan to take the Lenten fasting seriously!

Why not look at Grace before meals?



Taking Food and Drink

As well as the 'regular' prayers before and after meals here are some more.:



Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation:
You bring forth bread from the earth.

♦
God is blessed in all his gifts
And holy in all his works,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

♦
All the world hopes in you, O Lord,
That you will give us food in our hunger.
You open wide your hand
And we are filled with good things.

Cf Ps 104

♦
Blessed be the Lord,
Of whose bounty we have received
And by whose goodness we live.

♦
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
Those who long for the Lord
shall give him praise.
May their hearts live for ever.



A good idea might be to have a different Grace Before Meals each day of the week or another combination. It might even be on a rota.



THE CLASSROOM IN WINTER ORDINARY TIME...

This is probably the hardest time of the year when it comes to classroom and worship space decoration. The energies associated with the rich decoration of Christmas and the danger of jumping the gun with Lent, make it especially difficult.

The colour is green – dark, forest green. Try deep olive combined with brown, gold, russet, grey or silver. It is quite a challenge to keep the wintertime expressions honest to our local area.

There are a flurry of liturgical events that could find expression in your space: The Octave of Christian Unity (18-25 Jan), The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) (2Feb), World day of prayer for the sick (11 Feb) and Education Sunday (11 Feb - this year).

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr.C

What about selecting a Gospel passage from one of the Sunday's in Winter Ordinary Time – possibly the one you may use at a class/year group celebration – and focus a display around it?



Music for the Season...

Music at the beginning of a liturgy not only introduces a theme or sets the atmosphere but also gathers together lots of voices into one voice — the voice of the Body of Christ. There are a number of songs which express this such as *Song of the Body of Christ* (Haas) or *Gather us in* (Haugen). Music used for the **Blessing and Sprinkling of Water** needs to be sung without books or sheet. We need to see the action we are singing about. Perhaps it would be an idea to use just the refrain of *O Wash me* (O'Hara). For something livelier try Marty Haugen's *Up from the Water*.

The 3rd form of the **Penitential Rite** is often misunderstood as a litany of sorrow when it is in fact a litany of praise for the mercy of Christ — just look at the text given in the Missal. CJM music's collection *Rise up and sing* has a number of useful settings. You may not sing the **Gloria** often but it is good to have some settings. CJM Music's *Burntwood Gloria* is worth seeking out. In the hymnbook *Laudate* the setting by Salazar is becoming well known but the setting by Berthier will appeal to many. When preparing for Mass it is not a good idea to overcrowd the Introductory Rites with music; better to have one well chosen piece.

A Prayer for you...

While much of *Spirit of the Season* is to help you in your work with children, from time to time there will be something for you as teacher. This is the prayer that belongs to 2 February.

At last, all-powerful Master,
You give leave
to your servant
to go in peace,
according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen
your salvation
which you have prepared for
all nations,
The light
to enlighten the Gentiles
And give glory
to Israel, your people.

The NUNC DIMITTIS. Lk 2:29-32

Parts of the Mass explained:
Gathering and Introductions

Setting the scene:

DMC on the gathering...

40. The introductory rite of Mass has as its purpose “that the faithful coming together take on the form of a community and prepare themselves to listen properly to God’s word and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily.” GIRM 39. Here the assembly is called together in Christ and established again as the Church. Therefore every effort should be made to create this disposition in the children and not to jeopardise it by any excess of rites which are set forth here.

It is sometimes permissible to omit one or other element of the introductory rite or perhaps to expand another element. There should always be at least some introductory element, which is completed by the opening prayer. In choosing individual elements, care should be taken that each one be used from time to time and that none be entirely neglected

Entrance Procession (Song)

Greeting

Penitential Rite

Gloria

Opening Prayer.

Entrance Song

See notes on Music on Page 3. Sometimes it might be appropriate to begin in silence.

Greeting

After making the sign of the cross together, the priest and people exchange formal greetings as a mutual acknowledgment and evocation of the presence of Christ in their midst.

Opening Rites

Given the suggestion of the DMC a choice is then made of the most appropriate rites based on the liturgical season, the feast, the particular occasion or on who it is that is to celebrate:

- Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water.
- Penitential Rite (3 forms).
- Gloria.
- Other Opening Rites. (*i.e.* 2 Feb)

So the Sprinkling of Water might be most appropriate in the Easter Season; the Gloria on Holydays the Penitential Rite 1 in Lent but Penitential Rite 3 in Advent—the choice is yours.

Opening Prayer

The prayer ends the Introductory Rites.

From the Directory for Masses with Children

On the environment...

35. The liturgy of the Mass itself contains many visual elements and these should be given great prominence with children. This is especially true of the particular visual elements in the course of the liturgical year, for example, the veneration of the cross, the Easter candle, the lights on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and the variety of colours and liturgical appointments.

In addition to these visual elements that belong to the celebration itself and the place of celebration, it is appropriate to introduce other related elements that will permit children to perceive visually the wonderful works that God performed in creation and redemption and thus support their prayer. The liturgy should never appear as something dry and merely intellec-

What is the DMC?

The Directory was produced by the Holy See in 1973. It is a guide to adapting the Mass for celebrations with children. It makes the distinction between Masses where there are few children and where the majority are children. The complete text is on the Liturgy Office website.

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