



RC Diocese of Aberdeen
Diocesan Sacramental Directory

Children's Liturgy

1. A parish priest is the judge whether it is helpful or not for the children at a Sunday Mass to have a distinct Liturgy of the Word, adapted to their needs, in accordance with the *Directory for Masses with Children* (1973).
2. This 'Children's Liturgy' is normally open to all children up to the age of Sacramental Preparation.
3. Suitably qualified adults, approved by the parish priest, will be responsible for leading this Liturgy.
4. The children should be present in the liturgical assembly for the opening of the Mass. They are called out either immediately after the opening greeting of the Mass or after the Collect. The celebrant or deacon will receive them, may briefly address them and bless them. They should go to their designated place in an orderly fashion, with the adults who are leading them.
5. This Liturgy of the Word should focus on the Gospel of the day or any of the other readings or, when appropriate, on the liturgical feast or season. It should lead into the Liturgy of the Eucharist in which the children will participate with the rest of the congregation.
6. The Children's Liturgy should not be used for sacramental preparation.
7. The children should return for the Presentation of the Gifts at the Offertory, again in an orderly fashion. It is appropriate that they bring the Gifts to the celebrant, who receives them in a friendly manner. They may also present anything they have created during their Liturgy of the Word.

For information:

"17.... Sometimes, moreover, if the place itself and the nature of the community permit, it will be appropriate to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, including a homily, with the children in a separate, but not too distant, room. Then, before the Eucharistic Liturgy begins, the children are led to the place where the adults have meanwhile celebrated their own Liturgy of the Word.

18. It may also be very helpful to give some task to the children. They may, for example, bring forward the gifts or perform one or other of the songs of the Mass."

Directory for Masses with Children, 1973.