

St Andrew's Church
Annual General Meeting 2017

Children's Liturgy Report

It has been business as usual for the Children's Liturgy team in the last year. Eight of us have continued to run a liturgy for the children during Sunday morning Masses in term time. Numbers of children attending have continued to vary and to range this year from five to around fifteen. The age range continues to work well, from age 3-4, accompanied by a parent or older sibling or cousin, to upper primary school age and fully independent and confident.

The structured format continues to entail a brief discussion about the children's experience and their thoughts around the theme of the gospel before the gospel acclamation and reading. The discussion is always lively and children of all ages have something to contribute, though it's fine if some prefer to listen and stay in the background. There is usually competition amongst the children to read the gospel for the rest of the group and it's wonderful to see children progressing from bravely having a go and naturally struggling at first to becoming clearer and more fluent over time. There is also keen competition to deliver one of the several, weekly questions about what happened in the gospel as well as to answer a question - some easier than others (we sometimes have to re-read the gospel ourselves to find an answer, even with familiar gospels - makes you think!) We finish with an activity related to the gospel theme which takes the shape of drawing, sticking, gluing, planting or acting out, before Edwina comes across to collect us for the return to church and the children's report to Father Gerald. There is a weekly "Look" quiz sheet which children can take away and which reinforces the gospel message. Depending on the theme and activity there might also be an end product to display on the board at the back of the church.

Many thanks to everyone who creates a supportive environment around the Children's Liturgy and particularly to Father Gerald, to the Children's Liturgy team for all of their effort and reliability, to Edwina for being steadfast with setting-up and shepherding us back over, to others who help with tidy-up and to the PVG team who organise our checks and clearance.

We are always glad to have new parents and leaders - please catch me or any of the leaders who come back in with the children if you are interested.

Ana Price

for the Children's Liturgy team

April 2017