# NOTES FOR A TEAM MEETING TO PREPARE A LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

Check which Sunday / Solemnity you will be celebrating
(e.g. by using the Diocesan Ordo which is available in printed form or on the diocesan website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Which liturgical season will you be in? Advent? Christmastime? Ordinary Time? Lent? Eastertime?

Gather with the team which will be leading the LOWC on that particular Sunday.

- Pray quietly for openness to whatever God is saying to you through his word.
- Listen to one person reading to either the First Reading or the Second Reading. Usually you will find that the First Reading 'fits' better with the Gospel; sometimes you may decide that the Second Reading would be more appropriate.
- Sit in silence for a few minutes, reflecting on what you have just heard.
- Listen to the Reading again.
- Share what you heard – words, phrases, ideas, images, but don't discuss these or get into conversation about them.
- Repeat the same process for the Gospel (listen – reflect – listen – respond).
- Discuss what you feel the readings are about for you as adults. What do they say to your life? What challenges are there in them? What is God saying to you through them?
- If someone in the group has had the opportunity to read a commentary on the readings, this would be a good opportunity for them to share this with the rest of the group.
- How might you enable older children to hear, reflect on and respond to these readings?
- How might you enable younger children to hear, reflect on and respond to these readings?
- Have a look at some of the resource materials for Liturgy of the Word with Children for this Sunday.
- Spend a few minutes in silence, reflecting on all you have heard and shared, and then decide how you will approach the Liturgy of the Word with Children on this particular Sunday:
    - How will you arrange the worship space so that a prayerful atmosphere is created?

- How will you start? Will you use any elements from the Introductory Rites of the Mass e.g. Penitential Rite or Gloria (no Gloria during Advent or Lent)?
- How will you introduce the readings? (Are there any links with last week's readings?)
- How will you sing the Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation?
- How will you enable all present to hear and respond to God's word?
- Will there be a time for intercessions?
- How will you finish and return to the Church?
- What resources will you need e.g. visual aids, music?

**Evaluation**

It is good for those involved in leading the Liturgy of the Word with Children to gather together at least twice a year to reflect on the liturgies and consider any improvements that might be necessary.

Such a meeting might usefully also include some formation of the team e.g. about the liturgical seasons, the Bible, one of the Gospels etc. The team might also revisit the Bishops' Conference Liturgy Office Guidelines and our own diocesan Guidelines.

**Long-term planning**

Many groups find that it is very beneficial to plan a number of LOWCs at one meeting to ensure connection between what is done. This is especially that case for the liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Eastertime

**The final purpose of all liturgical and Eucharistic formation**
**must be a greater and greater conformity to the Gospel**
**in the daily life of the children.**
(Directory on Masses with Children para 15)