

5. Two minutes of silent prayer follow.
6. The Benediction hymn is sung during the incensing.

Priest: You have given them bread from heaven.

All: Having in itself all delight.

7. The priest sings the Benediction prayer, takes the humeral veil and gives the Blessing and the bell is rung.
8. The Divine Praises (adapted for children)

Blessed be God,
 Blessed be God's Holy Name
 Blessed be Jesus, the Son of God
 Blessed be the Holy Name of Jesus
 Blessed be the Sacred Heart of Jesus
 Blessed be Jesus in the Holy Eucharist
 Blessed be the Holy Spirit of God
 Blessed be Mary, Mother of God
 Blessed be the Holy Name of Mary
 Blessed be St Joseph, husband of Mary
 Blessed be God, his angels and his saints.

9. The closing hymn is sung while the Blessed Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle.

Some suggested hymns:

- Jesus name above all names
- You are Lord, You are Lord (x3)
- Jesus you are bread for us
- Shine Jesus shine
- Shout to the Lord
- Sweet Sacrament Divine

Diocesan Liturgical Commission Christchurch

Newsletter N° 26 – June 2005



To: Priests and Pastoral Assistants
 Parish Liturgy Committees
 Parish Councils
 Directors of Religious Studies
 Religious Houses
 Principals - Catholic Schools
All Parishioners

BENEDICTION WITH CHILDREN

A FORM OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT WITH CHILDREN

- The Year of the Eucharist (Oct 04-Oct 05) provides us with an opportunity to offer our school children Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For the majority of our children the only Eucharistic service they know is the Mass.
- Children have the right to know that public and private devotion toward the Eucharist is to be encouraged. Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction are expressions of this.

- When the faithful, adults and children, adore Christ present in the Sacrament, they should remember that this presence is derived from the sacrifice of the Mass and is directed towards sacramental and spiritual communion.
- The use of candles, monstrance, and incense as well as the use of the appropriate vestments offer worshippers a further insight into the beauty of the Church's liturgical tradition.
- Benediction during the school year e.g. once each term, can be celebrated on any day. A particular feastday could be chosen. Any scriptural reading and brief homily can be related to the occasion or the feastday.
- Experience would suggest:
 1. Benediction for children should last no longer than 30 minutes.
 2. An atmosphere of peace and recollection, silence and prayerfulness should prevail.
 3. The priest should lead all prayers, readings and quiet moments, so that the stillness not be interrupted by unnecessary movement.

A FORM OF BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT WITH CHILDREN

1. Opening hymn while the priest exposes and incenses the Blessed Sacrament.
2. One minute of silent prayer.
3. The priest could then pray slowly in these or similar words:

Jesus, You are here with us in the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Bread on the altar.

Jesus, you are our God. We bow down before you, we adore you.

Jesus, help us to believe more truly. Help us to love you.

Jesus, help us to thank you for your many gifts to us. Help us in these precious moments to open our hearts to you.

Jesus, help us to pray to you as we come to receive your blessing.

Jesus, we ask your blessing on our school and parish, on our families and friends, on our country and world.

Jesus, help us to remain quiet so that you may speak to us.
4. The priest reads a passage from the Gospel which will be relevant to the occasion or feastday. A brief homily follows.