



School Assembly Prayer Service

We are gathered to celebrate Catholic Schools Week in our school. This year's theme, *Catholic Schools: Communities of Service*, focuses on the service that we give to one another by caring for each other in our home, our school and our parish. We look to Jesus for examples of how we can serve one another with love and respect, sharing our gifts and talents generously with each other. We celebrate each other and our many differences. We are each precious and unique before God; there never has been nor will there ever be anyone completely like any one of us. We come before God now and ask that our week be blessed.

Opening hymn

Use of one the following or any other joyful hymn:

'This is the Day' (*Grow in Love Teacher's Manual – Third Class/Primary 5*, p. 254)

'Canticle of the Sun' (Marty Haugen)

'All Things Bright and Beautiful' (*Grow in Love Teacher's Manual – Fourth Class/Primary 6*, p. 204)

Opening prayer

Let us pray:

That we may know God's presence is with us as we walk together in faith as followers of Jesus in our school community, supporting one another, listening to one another and sharing our gifts and talents with one another every day. We ask God to strengthen us and to give us the courage to be Christ for others in our work and play together.

We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Reading

A reading from the letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 13).

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.





Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Communities of Service

Psalm (Psalm 139 [138] – adapted)

Response: Praise God for the wonder of your creation.

I praise you, for I am wonderfully made by you.
Great is your creation; that I know very well.
Nothing of me was ever hidden from you,
When I was being created, your eyes watched over me. (*Response.*)

In your book were written
All the days that were prepared for me,
Even before I existed.
How amazing to me are you, O God! (*Response.*)

I try to count all that you have done for me
But they are more than the sand;
To the very end of time
You will be with me always. (*Response.*)

A reflection from Pope Francis on hope

‘We must not let hope abandon us, because God, with his love, walks with us. ‘I hope, because God is beside me’: we can all say this. Each one of us can say: ‘I hope, I have hope, because God walks with me.’ He walks and he holds my hand. God does not leave us to ourselves. The Lord Jesus has conquered evil and has opened the path of life for us. ... Let us allow the Lord to teach us what it means to hope.’ (General Audience, 7 December 2016)





Catholic Schools Week 2024

Catholic Schools: Communities of Service

Sharing the light of hope

You will need a candle, a crucifix, a Green School symbol and a symbol of justice (e.g. scales of justice).

Reader: God has created a beautiful world and given us the power and responsibility to co-create through our care of one another and the world. *(A Green School symbol is placed in sacred space.)*

Response: Let us share the light of hope

Reader: We bring hope into the world as we pledge to care for those whose resources are being destroyed by global warming by reducing the impact that we make on the earth. *(A candle is placed in the sacred space.)*

Response: Let us share the light of hope.

Reader: We bring hope to those who are treated unfairly in our community, our country and our world by standing up for what is right and just. *(An image of the scales of justice is placed in sacred space.)*

Response: Let us share the light of hope.

Reader: We will walk in the footsteps of Jesus sharing faith in God, hope through our actions and choices, and love through our respect for everyone we encounter. *(A crucifix is placed in the sacred space.)*

Response: Let us share the light of hope.

We are brothers and sisters of one another and all people on this earth. Let us pray to God, our Father: *Our Father ...*

Concluding prayer

God, our Father, we ask that you may help us walk in the footsteps of Jesus, caring for one another and for the earth, bringing justice, peace and hope wherever we may be each minute of our school day.

We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing hymn

'God has Given Us the Earth' (Bernard Sexton, *Grow in Love Teacher's Manual – Sixth Class*, p. 226) or 'Circle of Friends' (*Grow in Love Teacher's Manual – First Class/Primary 3*, p. 84)

