**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2023**

**PRAYER SERVICE OR EUCHARISTIC LITURGY**

**BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS:**

Our guiding Scripture for Catholic Education Week 2023 is “Let *the words you speak always be full of Grace”* (Col 4:6). The theme includes discernment (making choices), in the ways we dialogue with others.  It is taken from a longer piece of scripture that invites us to converse with wisdom, courage, and compassion for the common good.

In the week before scheduled Liturgy, there should be preparation for the Prayer Service or Eucharistic Liturgy.  Invite students to dialogue and wonder about the theme “***Let the words you speak always be full of grace***” (Col 4:6) and develop some actions as a result of the discussion.    
Notes:  
*The following outline can be adapted to suit the needs and context of the school community when preparing for a Eucharistic Liturgy or Prayer service.***PREPARATION OF SACRED/PRAYER SPACE FOR THE PRAYER SERVICE:**

The following symbols are *suggestions only* for the prayer space:  
 Bible  
 School Candle

Cross

Liturgical coloured fabric  
 School banner/house banners

Message Stick

*Symbols are placed for everyone to see in the prayer space.*

**LITURGY**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:**

*In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s spiritual and cultural connection to Country, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we gather today – (insert correct name).*

*We recognise the continued care of the lands and waterways passed from generation to generation, wisdom that is shared, and life that is celebrated in harmony with the natural environment.*

*We honour the Elders, past and present, who have laid the foundations, traditions, and culture for emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and we commit to continue working together for reconciliation and justice.*

**WELCOME:** Leader/Presider

Today we gather to celebrate Catholic Education Week 2023… (Create own words of greeting to your community)

**GATHERING HYMN**: Some suggestions:

* + - School Song or Anthem
    - Gather Us O God - Monica Brown
    - Light the Way – Andrew Chinn, Butterfly Music (People of Peace 2012)
    - Gathered as One – John Burland (Lord Teach Me Your Ways)
    - Jesus is the Light – Michael Mangan, Litmus Productions (Setting Hearts on Fire)
    - We Are the Body of Christ - Andrew Chinn 2012 (Butterfly Music (People of Peace
    - Gather us in - Marty Haugen
    - Welcome to All - Andrew Chinn (Welcome to All)
    - Welcome to Life - Matt Maher (Welcome to Life)
    - Together As One - Andrew Chinn (This Day)
    - Love is What We Need - Steve Angrisano (High Above Our Way)
    - Appropriate Song of own choice

**Penitential Act**:

Leader/Presider: Lord Jesus, your love invites us to speak words which are full of

grace.

Lord have mercy

All: Lord have Mercy.

Leader/Presider: Lord Jesus, your love calls us to hear the truth.

Christ have mercy

All: Christ have mercy.

Leader/Presider: Lord Jesus, your love urges all people to act with wisdom.

                                   Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.    

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Lord, we come before you today as your people. Open us to your presence in our lives and in one another. Help us to see you in everyone we meet. Help us to speak with grace, wisdom, peace and care.  Make us people of compassion, bringing kindness to others in your name.

All: Amen.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Leader/Presider: Introduction to scripture:**

Jesus used images and characters taken from everyday life in ancient Palestine to illustrate his message.  This was his common way of teaching.  His parables appealed to the young and old, poor and rich.  Jesus loved to use images and characters to reach the heart of his listeners through their imagination.  Even though Jesus told his parables a long time ago, they still carry important justice messages for us today.   if we listen with faith and humility then we will hear and understand what Jesus to tell us, not just with our eyes and ears, but in our hearts.

**1st READING:**

(Choose from…)

1. Jeremiah 1: 6 – 9
2. Proverbs: 3: 25 – 26

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** (If Eucharistic Celebration)

“Lord you have the Words of everlasting life” Ps 19. (GA 20)

OR

“These Hands” (Andrew Chin)

**2nd READING**  Colossians: 4: 2 -3; 5– 6

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia Response (of own choice)

**GOSPEL:** Mark 4: 30 – 33

**HOMILY OR RESPONSE/REFLECTION**

Reflection:   <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIMdcOoCids>

    (Andrew Chin)

**PRAYER OF FAITHFUL:**

Leader/presider: Loving God, we gather the needs and concerns of all present and bring them to you.

Reader: For the leaders of the Church that their conversations will be gracious, just and guided by the Holy Spirit (pause)

Loving God hear us

All: Loving God hear our prayer

Reader: For the leaders of the world that they will speak words of peace.

(pause)

Loving God hear us

All: Loving God hear our prayer

Reader: For those in Catholic Education that their words will be full of wisdom and strength.

(pause)

Loving God hear us

All: Loving God hear our prayer

Reader: For all those here, that as we speak we are aware of the dignity of others.

(pause)

Loving God hear us

All: Loving God hear our prayer

Reader: For the young that they will not be afraid to speak the words of Jesus.

(pause)

Loving God hear us

All: Loving God hear our prayer

Reader: For those who love and care for our natural world, that their words will call us to be active stewards of creation.

(pause)

Loving God hear us

All: Loving God hear our prayer

Reader: For those who are sick that our words will bring them loving support.

(pause)

Loving God hear us

All: Loving God hear our prayer

Reader: For those who have lost loved ones that they will be comforted by our words.

(pause)

Loving God hear us

All: Loving God hear our prayer

Leader/Presider: In hope and faith we bring our prayers to our loving God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**LITURGY OF EUCHARIST**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

*Depending on the context and in consultation with the Presider, a decision would be made about which of the Eucharistic Prayers would be best suited for this celebration of Mass. Eucharistic* ***responses are most appropriately sung ie Holy, Holy, Holy; Acclamatio; Amen; Lamb of God****.*

**Suggested Mass Settings**:

* Mass Jubilee and Mass of Celebration by Michael Mangan PRIMARY
* Mass for God’s Children by Andrew Chinn (People of Peace) PRIMARY
* Mass of St Francis (Paul Taylor)
* Mass of Alphonsus (Paul Bird)
* Mass Shalom (Colin Smith)

**Communion Hymn:** Some suggestions

* This Is My Body - Andrew Chinn (People of Peace)
* One Bread One Body - John Michael Talbot
* I Am The Bread of Life - Andrew Chinn (Welcome to All)
* Offering - Stephen Kirk
* Come to the Table - John Burland (Lord Teach Me Your Ways)
* The Bread of Life - Michael Mangan (Setting Hearts of Fire)
* Do This in Memory of Me - John Burland (Celebrating the Sacraments)
* When We Eat This Bread - Andrew Chinn (These Hands and Together As One)
* One Body, One People - Michael Mangan (Setting Hearts On Fire)
* Take and Eat - Michael Mangan (This Is The Time)
* We Gather at Your Table - Andrew Chinn (People of Peace)
* Emmaus Song - Monica Brown
* Everything is Grace - Matt Maher (Saints and Sinners)
* Your Grace is Enough - Matt Maher (All the People Said Amen)
* I am the Bread of Life - Steve Angrisano (High Above Our Way)
* Clean Heart - Matt Maher (Echoes)
* Sing Over Your Children - Matt Maher (Alive Again)
* Remembrance (Communion song) - Matt Maher (Alive Again)
* All the people said Amen - Matt Maher (All the people said Amen)
* Appropriate Song of own choice

**RITUAL ACTION** *for celebrations other than Eucharist*

The following two actions may be done together or separately.

Listening and Attending to the school community:

Each class/group identifies a need within the school community and suggests a way to attend to that need*.* This requires the teacher and students dialoguing with each other about the needs of this school community.

This may be presented as a visual form eg power point and presented as part of the ritual action.  One suggestion is to use the words from the Prayer of the Faithful to create individual slides which can be shown to the school.  Images from the school community demonstrating the message from the prayer, would be appropriate.

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

**Dismissal**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you sow your word in our hearts and our lives. May the words we speak, always be filled with grace.  May our lives and our world be places where your word is heard.  May we live as people of faith, walk as people of hope and grow as people of love.

**Recessional Hymn Song suggestions**:

* + The School Song
  + Bring Forth the Kingdom - Marty Haugen (Spirit & Song)
  + Go make a Difference - Steve Angrisano
  + Raise Your Voice for Justice - John Burland (Lord Teach Me Your Ways)
  + Source of Life - Andrew Chinn (Many Roads One Journey)
  + In the Footsteps of Jesus - Andrew Chinn.
  + To the Ends of the Earth by Fr Rob Galea
  + We are God’s Hands by Andrew Chinn
  + Jesus is the Light – Michael Mangan (Setting Hearts on Fire)
  + Alive Again - Matt Maher
  + Rising - Stephen Kirk
  + Thank You - Stephen Kirk
  + People of God - Andrew Chinn
  + Hearts on Fire - Michael Mangan (Setting Hearts on Fire)
  + Appropriate Song of own choice