

IDEAS FOR ASSEMBLIES & SERVICES OF PRAYER

A. BEGINNING THE YEAR

Introduction:

As we gather at the beginning of a new year, for some a time to renew friendships and for all a time to make new friends, we seek the guidance and wisdom of the Spirit on our school community. The Lord calls us to become prayerfully aware of our need to grow and develop in our Christian lives. We ask the Lord's blessing on our work, that we may find strength and guidance in our learning and be prepared for and willing to accept the new and challenging experiences of the year.

We will now present some symbols to remind us now and through the year what the Lord asks of us.

1. A Light Bulb or a Lighted Candle

Reader 1: This is a symbol of the light of Christ that burns within each of us.

The light that is seen when we show love and concern for each other.

Reader 2: Let this symbol of light remind us constantly of your love for us, Lord, so that we will remember to meet with you in prayer and the sacraments, and we will reach out in your light to share our love and concern with each other. **Lord hear us.**

2. Chalk, Pens, Pencils.



Reader 1: These are the tools we use to share our feelings, thoughts and knowledge.

Reader 2: Let us offer the work that we will do this year to God. May the symbols of chalk, pens and pencils be a constant reminder that our academic studies, our times of reflection, our communication with one another are the ways of sharing our love for you, Lord. **Lord hear us.**

3. Blackboard Duster or a Large Sized Rubber

Reader 1: When we make a mistake in writing we can easily remove it and start again.

Reader 2: Let us remember that when we make mistakes in life, you, Lord, are ready to forgive us. Let this symbol of (blackboard duster and rubber) remind us to forgive each other's mistakes and to seek forgiveness for all our mistakes. **Lord hear us.**

4. A Bell

Reader 1: The bell tends to rule our lives at school, it calls us to class, and frees us from class.

Reader 2: Let the bell remind us that we are often called to face new challenges and new opportunities; give us the courage to hear you call to us, Lord, and the courage to respond. **Lord hear us.**

5. Globe and World Map

Reader 1: The globe/map reminds us that we are a part of the wider community. The world, all nations, cultures and creeds are our neighbours and friends.

Reader 2: May this globe/map help us to remember to pray for peace, peace within ourselves, peace in our families, our school, our communities and especially for world peace. **Lord hear us.**

6. Clock

Reader 1: A clock helps us to plan our time wisely and to respect other people's use of time.

Reader 2: Let the clock be a reminder that we choose how we use our time. Lord, guide our use of time, so that we may plan wisely - time for work, time for friends, time for recreation, time for a rest and time for you, Lord. **Lord hear us.**

Song:

Sing or play a suitable song.

Prayer:

Lord, bless each of us this year, that we may grow together under the guidance and wisdom of the Spirit. Bless all the activities of the community, our study, our recreation, our sport, our friendships, our retreats, that they may all help us to grow closer to you and more aware of each other's needs. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**



B.A GOSPEL DRAMA BASED ON LUKE 10:38-42
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[Martha and Mary]

Commentator: The gospel reading for this Sunday comes from Luke's account. It is part of the journey of Jesus and the disciples to Jerusalem. Luke used this journey to teach us many things about what it means to be a follower of Jesus as we journey through life. Luke often describes the true follower of Jesus as one who hears the word of God and does it in practice. This week on that journey we meet two sisters. Let me introduce you . . . Martha?

Martha: *(coming forward with an apron on or rolling up her sleeves).*
Hi! I'm what you might call a 'do-er!' I like to get stuck in and get things organised. I like being busy - and getting other people busy too! Now, here's my sister, Mary . . . Mary?

Mary: *(Hurries forward smiling apologetically).*
I'm sorry . . . I was just talking with the woman next door . . . Hello. I'm what you might call a 'people' person . . . people are just so interesting. . . I love talking with them and finding out about them . . . **Some people** I could listen to all day!

Commentator: Thank you both, Martha and Mary. Now let us hear your story.

Narrator: (Reads Luke 10:38-42 while story is mimed, finishing with Jesus taking Martha in to join Mary and the other disciples.)

Commentator: So there you have it, a hearer and a doer. But I think there is even more to it than that. Jesus often pointed out to his disciples that they were to put a priority upon seeking the things of God over just concentrating their whole lives on food and clothing. He said, **'Humans cannot live on bread alone! What they really need to feed on is every word that comes from the mouth of God.'** I think that Jesus underlines that priority in the story of Martha and Mary.

Narrator: Yes, I see that. But by encouraging women to become full disciples and eat from the table of his Word, Jesus was different from Jewish society of his times, wasn't he? So, as Christians, all of us, women and men, need to understand that hearing the Word of God, especially from Jesus, must be a priority in our lives - so that we can go out and do it in practice.

Commentator: Right! That's the message . . . but y'know, I like to think that Martha just might have had the last word, even if Luke doesn't tell us about it!

Martha: *(standing up and once more pushing up her sleeves).*
Right, Lord, I've got the message . . . you want us to hunger for, and feed on your Word . . . that's just great . . . but now **you lot** (looking at the disciples), can help get the meal ready! Peter, Andrew you can look after the wine . . . James and John, move that bench over here . . . Mary . . . Mary? Now where is that girl!
(All move out.)

PRAYERS:

1. **Are you a doer or a hearer?** Christians need to be both. Lord, open our minds and hearts really to hear your word and do it in our lives. Lord hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. **Life is more than just eating . . .** isn't it? Is this why getting to the tuckshop often seems more important than anything else? Lord, we ask you to give us a hunger for all that feeds the minds and hearts of people so that we may grow into fully mature human beings. Lord hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. **We know that many in our world today are starving.** Lord we pray for all those who don't have bread to sustain the body, nor words to feed the spirit. By your Word, open our hearts to do what we can to help them in their desperate needs. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. **Women and men walk life's journey together.** Lord, we ask you to help us recognise and respect the rights and dignity of all people as we follow you on the journey. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Suitable song to finish.

Text by Sister Joan Parker RNDM, based on **Good News Bible**



C. A GOSPEL DRAMA BASED ON LUKE 18:9-14

[Tax Collector and Pharisee]

Narrator:

As Jesus and his disciples continue their journey to Jerusalem, Jesus told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everyone else.



(As narrator begins Jesus appears, closely followed by disciples and others. A haughty person gets Jesus' attention and indicates others with disdain. Jesus shakes his finger at him/her and stops to speak to the group. The disciples sit at his feet, others stand about on outskirts of group. As Jesus begins the parable one steps forward to mime the pharisee, another the tax collector.)

Jesus:

Once upon a time there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray; one of them was a Pharisee *(the Pharisee struts forward and bows to cheers and claps)*, the other a tax collector *(he sidles forward to boos from crowd.)* Now the pharisee stood right up there and prayed *(turns to indicate pharisee.)*

Pharisee:

(Boldly and proudly), I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everyone else. I thank you that I'm not like that no-good tax collector over there *(indicates him scornfully.)* Now me, I fast two days, two days I said, **every week!** What do you think of that? And I give you one tenth of all my income! *(remains standing proudly, arms folded and head raised loftily.)*

Jesus:

But the tax collector barely came inside the doorway and wouldn't even lift his eyes to heaven *(tax collector mimes this.)* Instead he beat his breast and said this: *(turns towards tax collector.)*

Tax Collector:

O God! *(beats his breast)*, O God, have mercy on me, a sinner! *(remains standing, head bowed and slowly beating his breast.)*

Jesus:

(stepping forward between the two characters of the parable.) Now I tell you that the tax collector goes home at peace with God *(tax collector goes off jauntily to cheers and claps)*, rather than this pharisee *(who walks off to boos from disciples and crowd.)* Of course none of you lot are like the pharisee are you? *(Jesus looks at one whom he shook his finger at earlier and that person puts head down in shame.)* Remember, all of you! Everyone who makes themselves great will be cut down to size, while those who see their own humble state will be made great in the sight of God.

Narrator:

And so Jesus and his friends continue on their way to Jerusalem. *(As narrator speaks, Jesus goes off talking and laughing with followers.)*

Text by Sister Joan Parker rmdm, based on the **Good News Bible**

D. A GOSPEL DRAMA BASED ON LUKE 21:5-19

(The disciples around Jesus within the Temple courtyards.)

A Disciple: Look, isn't the Temple a magnificent sight! Just look at the stonework!

Another Disciple: Yes, it really is beautiful - a masterpiece given to God.

A Third Disciple: What do you think, Master?

Jesus: All this you see - the time will come when not a single stone here will be left in its place; everyone of them will be thrown down!

(The disciples, taken aback, look at one another seeking to understand.)

A Disciple: *(Speaking to a few others.)* I know what he's talking about - the end of the world! Let's see if he knows when it will be. *(Nudges one of them.)*

Another Disciple: And what will happen so that we'll know the time has come?

Jesus: Now you watch yourselves and don't be conned. Many people claiming to speak for me will come and say, 'I am he!' and 'The time has come!' but don't you follow them. And don't be afraid when you hear of wars and revolutions; such things recur in human history, but they do not mean that the end is near!

A disciple: But Master . . .

Jesus: Look, countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be terrible earthquakes, famines and plagues everywhere; there will be strange and terrifying things in the skies. But just remember, before any of this happens you are going to be persecuted and arrested!

(The disciples huddle together and say 'ooooh!')

Yes, you will be handed over and tried in the synagogues and be put into prison. You will be brought before kings and rulers for my sake!

(The disciples say, 'No, no, Lord!' as they move towards Jesus with hands outstretched in an imploring gesture.)

Understand this - this will be your big chance - to bear witness to me! And make up your minds beforehand not to worry about how you will defend yourselves - I will give you such words and wisdom that none of your enemies, not even one, will be able to resist or contradict you!

(The disciples draw themselves up proudly and nod to one another at this.)

But you must know, too, that you will be handed over by your parents *(a disciple says, 'never!')* Yes, and by your brothers and your relatives, *(Another disciple calls out, 'You must be joking, Master!')* I tell you even your friends will give you up and some of you will be put to death. *(The disciples look fearfully at one another and then at Jesus.)* Everyone will hate you because of me . . . but cheer up *(putting out his arms wide as if to embrace all of them)*, not a single hair from your heads will be lost. Only stand firm, and you will win real life!

(Jesus turns, beckons his disciples and they move slowly out.)

Text by Sister Joan Parker rndm, based on the **Good News Bible**
with reference to the **Jerusalem Bible**
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E. A GOSPEL DRAMA BASED ON LUKE 24:13-35

[Journey to Emmaus] (Suitable in Eastertime)

Narrator: After his death and resurrection Jesus joined two disciples on their journey of disappointment and despair as they walked away from Jerusalem towards Emmaus. (*Two appear walking along dejectedly talking to each other.*) They saw Jesus but somehow did not recognise who he was.

Jesus: What are you talking about so seriously as you walk along?

Disciples: (*sadly*)
 (1) Don't you know what's been going on in Jerusalem these past few days?
 (2) You must be the only one who doesn't!

Jesus: What things?

Disciples: (1) About Jesus of Nazareth!
 (2) We thought he was the answer, a man of God, powerful in what he did and said . . .
 (1) But our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death . . .
 (2) and he was crucified.
 (1) Yes, that was the end of our hopes that he was the one to set Israel free!
 (2) And it is now three days since it happened.
 (1) Some of the women of our group did surprise us. They went at daybreak to the tomb but they couldn't find his body.
 (2) They came back with a story of seeing a vision who told them Jesus was alive. . .
 (1) Some of the group went to the tomb and found it exactly as they said. . .
 (2) But they didn't see Jesus.

Jesus: Now look, can't you see how things really are. . . ? You've got the facts there . . . What you need is another way of seeing them so that you understand! See, I'll help you . . . (*Walk along slowly, talking and gesticulating, stopping, then walking on. . .*)

Narrator: And so Jesus explained to them the meaning of what had happened, using the scriptures from Moses to the present. As they came near the village Jesus seemed as if he was going on further:

Disciples: (1) Stay here with us!
 (2) Yes, the day's nearly over, it'll soon be dark.
 (1) Come in with us!

(*They go in and mime as narrator continues.*)

Narrator: So Jesus went in with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread and said the blessing. Then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Immediately the blindness fell from their eyes and they recognised him, but he disappeared from their sight.

Disciples: *(To each other)*

- (1) Wasn't it like fire burning inside us when he talked to us on the road . . .
- (2) And explained everything to us! We should've known then!
- (1) Let's go and tell the others back in Jerusalem how we recognised the Lord when he broke bread for us!

(Go off joyfully).

Commentator: Just as Jesus walked beside these two disciples in their journey of loneliness and disappointment, so he walks beside us, too. Like the disciples on the way to Emmaus we don't always recognise him. Luke shows us two sure ways of encountering the Risen Jesus: in the Word of God when it is broken open for us to understand it, and in the Eucharist, the community breaking of the bread. This Easter may we recognise Jesus the Lord and realise his presence in our midst.

Text by Sister Joan Parker rndm, based on the Good News Bible

F. A GOSPEL DRAMA BASED ON MARK 10:46-52

[Blind Man]



- Narrator:** As Jesus was moving along on his journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, (*Jesus appears apparently talking with a group of disciples as they walk along, with others milling around on the outskirts*), he came near to Jericho. Now there was a blind man sitting beside the road begging. When he heard the crowds passing by he asked:
- Blind Man:** What's all this? What's going on?
- Several People:** (1) It's Jesus of Nazareth.
(2) He's on the road to Jer. . . .
- Blind Man:** (*Shouting loudly*) Jesus! Hey Jesus, Son of David! Take pity on me!
- Several People:** (1) Hush!
(2) Be quiet!
(3) Don't make that fuss
- Blind Man:** (*struggling up and shouting*) Jesus! Son of David! Take pity on me!
- Jesus:** (*Turning and stopping*) Bring that man to me! Call him here!
- Several People:** (1) Cheer up now, he's calling you!
(2) Come on, get up!
(3) Hurry along!
- Jesus:** (*To the blind man as he hobbles up*) What do you want me to do for you?
- Blind Man:** Lord, I want to be able to see again!
- Jesus:** (*Touching him*) See then! Go on, your faith has made you well!
- Narrator:** And the blind man, Bartimaeus, was able to see and he followed Jesus on his journey. (*Bartimaeus follows Jesus and disciples out, leaping and skipping.*)
- Commentator:** Jesus met this person at a point where their life journeys met. He asked Bartimaeus an important question. Let us meet Jesus, the healer, at this point in our life journey. Let us hear his question directed to each one of us: 'What do you want me to do for you?' In our hearts now let us ask Jesus for the healing we most need right now. (*Pause*) And now let us bring our needs and those of others to the Lord Jesus as we pray together.

(Use suitable prayer or prayers of faithful or suitable song, eg: 'Lay Your Hands')

Text by Sister Joan Parker rndm, based on Good News Bible

G. A GOSPEL DRAMA BASED ON MATTHEW 4:1-11*[Temptation in the Desert] (Suitable for early in Lent)*

Commentator: We are called to follow Jesus and live like him! . . . as Lent begins.

Voice 1: *(From the body of the people gathered.)* Follow Jesus! Live like him! Huh! That sounds OK when you say it . . . but out there in real life it's quite another thing . . . Jesus didn't have to live in this modern age!

Voice 2: *(Also from the crowd.)* Yeah, that's right. There are just so many things now that are different from then . . . Jesus didn't have to face up to the pressures and temptations that we do!

Voice 3: You see, our society pulls us in so many different directions . . . puts such conflicting goals and values before us . . . It's just not as simple as it was in the time of Jesus, is it?

Commentator: It's certainly true that Jesus lived in Palestine nearly 2,000 years ago . . . but the Gospels tell us that before Jesus began his adult work of proclaiming the Kingdom he was led by the Spirit into the desert or wilderness to make some choices about his life . . . in other words he was tempted . . . let's see what happened.
(Turns to indicate the place of acting.)

(Jesus appears wandering up and down in deep thought and prayer, then the tempter comes up to meet him; they walk on together apparently talking and gesticulating as they come forward to centre stage.)

Tempter: Now look, if you are really who you think you are . . . if you're really God's Son, then order these stones here to turn into bread . . . I mean to say you are hungry aren't you? You've surely earned a meal after all that fasting and prayer, eh?

Jesus: Well sure, I'm hungry all right! But you know, we humans cannot live on bread alone . . . more than anything else we need feeding by every word that comes from God.

Tempter: Uh huh! Well then, if you are really God's Son why don't you throw yourself down from the top of this temple. God will always protect you, won't he? I mean to say, his own Son! Now you do trust God don't you . . . ?

Jesus: It is because I really trust God that I will not ask for such useless things. It is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Tempter: Mmm! Well, I tell you what, I could give you all the kingdoms of the world and their great power - you could do with that if you're to save the world! All you have to do is kneel down here and worship me, you know, think the way I think, want what I want . . . what d'you say now, is that a bargain?

Jesus: Get away with you! Scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only God. And that's what I will be doing with my whole life. So go away where you belong! (*Tempter scuttles off, but turns to shake a fist before disappearing.*)

Commentator: So you see how Jesus chose to live as God's Son by obeying his Father's Word, by trusting in him without question, and by seeking to serve his Father instead of buying into the power structures of his time. For Jesus his temptations were an opportunity to make some positive choices for his life, and although the Gospels show the temptations all at one time and place, they probably represent Jesus' on-going human struggle to plot the course of his life. Just as we have to do! Jesus used the principles of the Jewish Scriptures to enlighten him in his choices; we have the Gospels to help us.

Text by Sister Joan Parker rmdm, based on the **Good News Bible**



H. A GOSPEL DRAMA BASED ON MATTHEW 16:13-17
 (With dialogue from other New Testament Writings)

- Narrator:** Jesus went to the region near the town of Caesarea Philippi. There he asked his disciples this question:
- Jesus:** Who do people say the Son of Man is? (*Pointing to himself.*)
- Disciples:** (1) Some think you're John the Baptist
 (2) or Elijah
 (3) or Jeremiah
 (4) or some other prophet.
- Jesus:** But what about you fellows? Who do **you** say I am?
- Voice from the Assembly:** (*The character stepping forward as she speaks.*)
 I'm from Samaria. You all know that Jews don't like us Samaritans, but I met that Jew called Jesus once by the village well. What a person! I told the people in my town, 'This man told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Christ?'
John 4:7, 29
- Another Voice:** Yes, that's true. We went and listened for ourselves and are convinced this Jesus is the Saviour of the world!
John 4:30-42
- A Third Voice:** Well, I'm in charge of the Roman garrison at Capernaum. I'd heard about this man Jesus. He had the reputation of being a great healer. I asked him to heal my servant who was sick unto death. Do you know he would have come to my house? But I said to him, 'Look, I know what authority is about and you are a man who speaks with authority. Just say the word . . .' My servant was healed!
Matthew 8:5-13
- A Fourth Voice:** I too know this man Jesus. I was born blind and a man healed me. What a fuss there was! The Pharisees had my parents and me in to question us about it. Talk about the third degree! I said to them, 'This man Jesus healed me.' They tried to make out he was ungodly because it was the Sabbath. They asked me what I thought. I said, 'He's a prophet . . . unless he came from God he couldn't do such a thing!' Later on this Jesus asked if I believed in him and I said, 'Yes, Lord, I believe.'
John, Chapter 9
- A Sixth Voice:** I'm usually known now as Paul, although as a pharisee I was called Saul. Jesus really changed my life that day on the road to Damascus, now I spend my life preaching his good news to the pagans so that everyone in the world will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father!
Acts 9; Philippians 2:11

A Seventh Voice: I'm Mary from Magdala. Jesus exorcised me and healed me. From that day I followed him right to the cross. I was there with his mother and the others. The next day I went to the tomb to look for him but his body wasn't there. I thought they'd even taken that away from us! Never have I cried so much. I didn't even recognise him at first, but he called me by name, 'Mary!' Then I knew and I fell to the ground calling out, 'Master!' I was sent to tell Peter and the others that Jesus is Risen from the dead!
Luke 8:2-3; John 19:25; 20:11-18

An Eighth Voice: Well my name is Simon, but Jesus is about to call me Peter the Rock. Now that all you others have had your say I will tell you who we say you are, Jesus. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!

Jesus: Good for you, Simon Peter! This truth was given you by my Father in heaven! (Turns to the assembled people.) And you, whom do you say I am?

All Sing: 'You Are the Christ . . .'

Text by Sister Joan Parker rndm, based on the Good News Bible

JESUS

I. THANK GOD WE'RE FREE

(Here students give thanks after hearing from people whose basic freedoms are denied.)

The following is a communal Thanksgiving meditation. It could also be used as a class prayer service. Fourteen participants are needed. Six hold candles, one is the leader, one is the lightbearer, and six offer the prayer responses. After the six original speakers blow out their candles, they should hold the particular stance designated in the directions. They should be evenly spaced in front of the altar (or in front of the class.) Speakers 1 and 6 will need a chair. Soft background music may be played.

Leader: Today we have gathered together to think about and give thanks for our many blessings. These include basic rights and freedoms that we sometimes take for granted. Listen now to our special 'guests' as they share their sorrow over freedoms they do not enjoy.

Speaker 1: I was so close to my mother's heart. I could hardly wait until she saw my first smile, or helped me with my first baby steps, or heard my childish voice say, 'I love you'. But it was never to be. An abortion snuffed out my life.

(Student blows out her candle and bows her head.)

Speaker 2: I am Maria Manuel and I live in Nicaragua. Hunger fills my stomach with pain. I wander the streets looking for the warmth and comfort of a loving family but it is not to be. I huddle close to a brick wall; perhaps sleep will come and I can dream.

(Student blows out her candle and sits sideways on a chair with arms wrapped around the back of the chair.)

Speaker 3: I am Bill Anderson, a senior citizen. Recently I had surgery done on my eyes. The operation was a failure and now my vision is limited to a few shadows. Frustration and loneliness plague me night and day. My hopefulness is slowly giving way to despair.

(Student blows out his candle and places his arms over his eyes.)

Speaker 4: I am Kasia. I live in a country where churches have been turned into museums. There is no such thing as religious freedom. Who is this God you worship? Do you really believe God exists? I don't.

(Student blows out her candle and defiantly turns her back on the congregation, placing one hand on her hip.)

Speaker 5: I am Jean Donovan. I was a lay missionary in El Salvador, a country that cries in pain from injustice. Yet this country attracted me to itself and its people. My identification with the people caused my death.

(Student blows out her candle and bows her head.)

Speaker 6: I am a unique individual created in God's image with special gifts and talents. Somewhere along the way I failed to develop my talents and use them wisely. It was just too much trouble. I just did not care. 'So what,' I always said!

(Student blows out his candle and slouches on a chair.)

Leader: We have heard your messages and we grieve with you. Your stories help us appreciate the many gifts we take for granted. The lightbearer will now re-light your candles as we pray our gratitude for the blessings that we have been given by God.

(As each candle is relit, the student holding it turns towards the altar, or faces the class, and raises the candle until the meditation is completed.)

Prayer 1: Thank you, God, for the precious gift of life. To show my appreciation, I will do all in my power to uphold the sacredness of life.

(The lightbearer lifts the chin of Student 1 and lights her candle.)

Prayer 2: Thank you, God, for my parents who provide for my emotional and material needs. The realisation that there are teenagers in the world with far less than I have reminds me to be less critical, to do things without being told, and finally to be more affectionate towards my parents.

(The lightbearer helps Student 2 from the chair and lights her candle.)

Prayer 3: Thank you, God, for the glorious gifts of sight, hearing and speech. Often I take these tremendous abilities for granted. I resolve to see more often the beauty in persons, places, and things around me, to listen more intently to others, and consciously to try to raise someone's spirits.

(The lightbearer lowers the arm that covers Student 3's eyes and lights his candle.)

Prayer 4: Thank you, God for religious freedom. Many times I refuse to acknowledge the awesome privilege I have to grow and develop in a Christian atmosphere. My life without God would be meaningless. Therefore, I intend to pray more frequently, to participate more readily at Mass, and show my faith commitment in my daily life.

(The lightbearer turns Student 4 to face the audience and lights her candle.)

Prayer 5: Thank you, God, for people who take a stand for justice at the expense of their careers, reputations, and sometimes even their lives. Perhaps I will never be called upon to make such extreme sacrifices for the sake of justice. I will, however, do all in my power to acknowledge, promote, and protect the rights of others.

(The lightbearer lifts the chin of Student 5 and lights her candle.)

Prayer 6: Thank you, God, for creating me in your image and for giving me so many wonderful abilities and talents. I am determined to develop and use these gifts so that I can help make the world a better place.

(The lightbearer helps Student 6 from the chair and lights his candle.)

Leader: Now let us reflect silently on those freedoms for which we are most grateful. And let us pray for those in our world who are denied their basic rights and freedoms. (Pause for silent prayer and reflection.) Please join me now in singing our closing song, **Now Thank We All Our God'**

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J. PREPARING FOR CELEBRATION OF THE WORD — OR PRAYER ASSEMBLY

FORMAT: (in general)

- * **Introduction** (Theme of service made clear)
- * **Reflection on life and its mystery**
 - story with a Christian message
 - poem written by children
- * **Response** -
- * **Scriptural Word** - (Deepening Theme)
 - May be acted, mimed, narrated by several, use of OHP
- * **Revisit Theme** - (My life now)
 - Prayers of praise, thanks, sorrow, petition, etc.
- * **Conclusion**

POINTS TO NOTE:

1. A leader needs to link all parts, eg:

Introduction - 'The Theme for today is

- 'So let us reflect
- 'Let us now respond to
- 'Let us now listen with our hearts.'

2. Prayers of the faithful allow people to bring their lives to the celebration.
3. Response can often be - psalms
 songs
 movement
 prayer
 slides
4. Readers need to **know** the reading.

K. PRAYER SERVICE FOR ADVENT

Setting: Bible opened to Luke 1:36-45
Statue of Mary
Candle

Leader: We gather together to share this time of prayer with each other; to be in touch with our God through Mary. Let us begin with a song in her honour.

Opening Hymn: *'Gentle Woman'*

Reader: Luke 1:36-45

(Pause for reflection)

Leader: I will read the following phrases and pause between each, a moment of private reflection:

For nothing is impossible with God...
(Pause)

Let it be with me as you say...
(Pause)

Mary got ready and hurried to the hill country...
(Pause)

*Just think, when the voice of your greetings reached my ears
the babe leaped within me with joy...*
(Pause)

Leader: Let us give praise to God our Father for each other and our sharing with each other.

All: I will praise the Lord with my whole heart;
I will tell of his marvellous deeds.

LIGHT THE CANDLE

Side 1: I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing praise all the days of
my life to your name, O my God.

Side 2: You are a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in time of trouble.

Side 1: Those who know your name shall trust
in you, for you, O Lord, have not
forsaken those who seek you.

- Side 2:** You are the God of righteousness, and
you love acts of righteousness;
your countenance beholds the upright.
- Side 1:** Your righteousness I have not hid away in my heart;
Your faithfulness and salvation I have proclaimed;
I have not concealed your loving kindness and
truth from the people.
- Side 2:** You, O Lord are my light and my salvation;
I shall fear no one
I will praise the Lord with my whole heart,
I will tell of his marvellous deeds.
- Leader:** God, Our Father,
we are into the time of Advent
Help us to wait and prepare as Mary did;
to be in touch with you;
to grow in love and compassion;
to carry your Son to others.

Let us minister to each other in whatever way we can and in whatever way the other needs.

We have been called and given a mission on earth.
May we go forth proclaiming your name to all.

We ask this in the name of Jesus your Son. Amen.

Let us go forth and prepare.



L.WAY OF THE CROSS FOR TEENS

Spend some time creating your own Stations of the Cross, this may be:

- By making collage Stations using magazine pictures to portray each Station.
- Making clay Stations - give each group a lump of clay and ask them to create a symbol for each Station.
- Making a mural of the Stations with paint.

For each of these give the students the name of the Station and several modern reflections.

Celebration of the Stations

In a darkened room - display the Stations the group have created - use candles to light each Station and candles around a crucifix on the floor. Give each reader a candle. You may have a reader for each Station, from the group that has prepared the Station - or you may have two readers reading alternative Stations. Play quiet background music as people assemble.

Opening Prayer:

Lord, we are here to journey with you the Way of the Cross. As we journey, help us to find you in our lives and stretch out our hands in trust to you.

Reading: Mark 14:43-52

Stations:

1. Jesus is Condemned to Die

Dear Lord, we often hurt because we have been wrongly accused - accused of being too young to understand, too young to be responsible - and yet we struggle to find our place in the world, to let our voices be heard as we try to make the world a better place for all to live in.

Time for silent reflection, quiet music.

2. Jesus Takes up His Cross

Each day we set out in the world, taking up our cross - the world demands we conform, we fit in, we find the place we belong: we also want to love and follow you, Jesus - help us to remain faithful to you even when all the cares and worries seem hard.

Sing a suitable response.

3. Jesus Falls the First Time

The cross was heavy, Jesus, because you carried it alone - so you do understand my loneliness, my cry for love, for others who care. Help me to realize that I am never alone, that you are always with me and for me.

Silent reflection.

4. Jesus Meets His Mother

Take a moment to think of our own parents and care-givers. Sometimes they fail to understand, fail to recognize what is so important to us in our lives - have expectations for us that we are not so sure of. Help us to reach out to them, even when it is hard, help us to love them and accept them just as they are.

Silent reflection.

5. Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

When the load seems too heavy - we too need help. Lord, will you send someone to share our burdens, someone to talk with, a shoulder to cry on, arms to support us, and will you help us to share others' burdens when they need us?

Sing a suitable response.

6. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Every day we see people who need our help, friends who need some encouragement, elderly people who need a visitor, the lonely who need to share, those who find an escape in drink and drugs. Help us to reach out to them, to love them, to show that we really care who they are.

Silent reflection.

7. Jesus Falls A Second Time

Sometimes even when people help us, we seem to fail - the troubles are still there, the fears are still real. Give us the strength and courage to get up and go on again. When we do things that we know are wrong and feel guilty, help us to learn from these experiences and find new strengths in your Spirit.

Silent reflection.

8. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Jesus, were you embarrassed when you were accused of being a criminal? Often we are embarrassed when we've done something wrong, we don't want to admit it, even to ourselves. Help us to accept the pain of embarrassment, to love ourselves still, even when we do unlovable things.

Sing a suitable verse.

9. Jesus Falls the Third Time

Jesus, we cannot even imagine the pain and exhaustion you must have known - we pray for the strength of spirit to keep following you even when the price is high. Help us to grow more and more like you.

Silent reflection.

10. Jesus is Stripped of His Clothing

God - we cannot hide from you . . .
You examine us and know us . . .
You can read our thoughts from afar . . .
You know every detail of our conduct (Ps 139)
When we are weak and selfish we often try to hide away from you. Help us to seek your forgiveness and experience your love.

Silent reflection.

11. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Jesus, you opened yourself to others and in opening yourself, made yourself vulnerable to their criticism, their hatred. When we open ourselves we too are vulnerable - and people take advantage of us. Let us take hope in reflecting on your suffering, that some day we too will enjoy the treasures of heaven.

Quiet music.

12. Jesus Dies on the Cross

Jesus, thank you for giving your life for us. Help us to live our lives for you, we need your help and your love. Be with us, Jesus, reach out your hand and heal us.

Silent reflection.

13. Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Let us pause and reflect on the times we have not helped others - instead we have teased them, laughed at them, made fun of them, lied and cheated to get what we want. We have hung you on the cross and left you there. Forgive us.

Silent reflection.

14. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Your friends came, Jesus, and laid you in the tomb. It was too late to save you from death, but they still showed you their love. To death you relied on God, and showed your love to all, and although you died you rose again to new life. We take hope in that and give thanks for your gifts of life, love, freedom, forgiveness, hope . . .

Sing a suitable song.

You may like to follow this with a veneration of the cross, a brief explanation of this and a challenge to all to go forward living the Gospel message Jesus gave us in his life, death and resurrection.

Close with a suitable song.

Ancient Japanese Prayer

All stand in a circle with arms extended, hands touching.

*In our hearts let there be generosity as large as the sea
which accepts both clean and unclean waters.*

*So may we accept and cherish all as persons
before God.*

*Let our hearts be as merciful as nature which loves
the smallest tree or blade of grass,
and as open to all people as nature to the heavens.*

*Let our minds be strong with sincerity that
can pierce the iron and stone,
so that we may be wise in our decisions.*

*Let us work always for the good of humanity in all its
complex forms and expressions
and be not closed to any human.*

*Let us make ourselves, above all, persons
whom nature is pleased to let live.*



Inviting the Faculty to Pray

Father We Adore You

Sing, or say, and move to the following:

Father, we adore you (both arms, raised up high)
Lay our lives before you
How we love you.

Jesus, we adore you (both arms straight out, palms up)
Lay our lives before you
How we love you.

Spirit we adore you (join hands with people on both sides)
Lay our lives before you
How we love you.

Words and music by Terrye Coelko
From: **Inviting the Faculty to Pray**
by Sr Maria Joseph Walsh sjc 1986
with permission of NCEA, Washington

Rite II of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

The following is a complete outline of the Second Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Structure

Introductory Rites

Song
Greeting
Brief Introduction
Opening Prayer

Celebration of the Word of God

Two or three readings of Scripture may be included, normally with a psalm or period of silence after the first reading, as at Mass.

If only one reading is used, it is preferable that it is from the Gospel. Homily.

Examination of Conscience

The group spends time considering areas of sinfulness in their lives. The priest or another minister may assist by offering a litany or brief statements which help focus reflection.

Rite of Reconciliation

General Confession of Sins

A communal form of confession, eg: "*I confess to Almighty God*" is followed by a Litany of Repentance or a suitable song.

The Lord's Prayer always concludes this part of the rite.

Individual Confession of Sin and Absolution

Students who wish may now go to a priest and confess their sins. After hearing a penitent's confession a priest may offer words of counsel; the priest then gives the penitent a penance to perform and administers absolution.

The students do not need to say "*Bless me, Father*" or indicate the time since their last confession. Nor do they say a prayer for forgiveness [Act of Contrition].

Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy

The presiding priest invites everyone to offer thanks for God's mercy and power in their lives, by singing a psalm or canticle or hymn, or saying a litany.

Concluding Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Concluding Rite

Blessing
Dismissal.

Penance Service

A Penance Service can be celebrated which is not the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Many of the parts of such a service are similar to the Rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Preparation

Planners should read the whole service so they understand it. The litany of repentance is not complete; you will need to add intercessions that will fit your group. You may change any of the intercessions already in this service. In the Closing, change the ritual if your group will be too large to stand in a circle. You may wish to prepare the church or room with symbols of the season. This is especially important during Advent and Lent.

This penance service can be changed by choosing a different reading, writing a new litany of repentance to go with it, or choosing a different ritual. Some good readings are:

Jesus cures a blind man	John9:1-12, 35-38
Jesus cures a paralytic	Luke 5:17-26
The Beatitudes (Reading For Sept 11)	Luke 6:20-26
The new Covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-34
The Ten Commandments	Exodus20:1-17 (the reading for November 14)
Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10
Our Merciful Father	Luke 15:11-32
The Last Judgment	Matthew 25:31-46

Hymn — Choose an appropriate one.

Greeting

Leader:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ his Son be with you in truth and love.

All: Amen.

Leader:

God is filled with love for us. God wants us to be filled with love also. But we are not always loving. Sometimes we are selfish and sinful. Today we will think about this. We will listen to God's word. We will pray. We will ask for God's forgiveness. We will give thanks, because we know that God has promised to forgive us whenever we ask from our hearts.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

O God, your word is powerful.
It creates, it teaches, it comforts, it forgives.
Open our ears to hear your word.
Open our minds to understand it.
Open our hearts to receive it.
Teach us how to recognize sin.
Strengthen us to confess our part in it.
Encourage us to do better.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Psalm

Side A:

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust.
Do not let anyone make me ashamed.
Do not let enemies get the best of me.
Let the wicked people be ashamed.

Side B:

Make me know your ways, O LORD.
Teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation.
I wait for you all day long.

Side A:

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your unchanging love.
Pardon my sins for your goodness's
sake.
Teach me the way that I should choose.

Side B:

Heal the troubles of my heart.
Bring me out of my distress.
Forgive all my sins.
Guard my life and deliver me,
for I take refuge in you.

Reading

Listen to the words of the holy gospel
according to Luke:

On one occasion a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law?" The man answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbour as yourself." Jesus said, "You have given the right answer. Do this and you will live."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

the priest or leader
may wish to speak to the group

Litany of Repentance

Leader:

We are all God's well-loved children.
We do not always do the good that we
want to do, and we sometimes do wrong
things that we don't plan to do. As we
pray for God's forgiveness, let us call to
mind our faults.

All:

*I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own
fault: in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done, and in what I have
failed to do;
and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin,
all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.*

Leader:

We are called to love God with all our
heart, with all our soul, with all our
strength, and with all our mind. But we
hold a lot back from God. We are called
to love our neighbours as we love
ourselves. But sometimes we do not
have enough love. And yet God knows
our hearts.

Let us open our hearts to God's mercy,
and say, Lord, we are sorry and we ask
your forgiveness:

For not paying attention to the prayers
when we gather to worship, let us ask
God's forgiveness:

All:

*Lord, we are sorry and we ask your
forgiveness.*

Leader:

For not thanking God for good things that happen, let us ask God's forgiveness:

All:

Lord, we are sorry and we ask your forgiveness.

Leader:

For not remembering to pray when we are at home, let us ask God's forgiveness:

All:

Lord, we are sorry and we ask your forgiveness.

Leader:

For using God's name in jokes or anger, let us ask God's forgiveness:

All:

Lord, we are sorry and we ask your forgiveness.

Leader:

For not seeing the image of God in others, let us ask God's forgiveness:

All:

Lord, we are sorry and we ask your forgiveness.

Leader:

For giving trouble to our parents and teachers, let us ask God's forgiveness:

All:

Lord, we are sorry and we ask your forgiveness.

Leader:

For talking about other people behind their backs, let us ask God's forgiveness:

All:

Lord, we are sorry and we ask your forgiveness.

Leader:

For thinking too much about ourselves and telling lies, let us ask God's forgiveness:

All:

Lord, we are sorry and we ask your forgiveness.

Leader:

For _____, let us ...

For _____, let us ...

For _____, let us ...

Let us take a few minutes now, and in silence promise God to become better in some practical way.

wait a few moments in silence

Let us pray with the words that Jesus taught us:

All:

Our Father ...

Closing Prayer

Leader:

As a sign that we care for each other
and that we wish to help each other
keep our promises to become better
followers of Jesus, let us form a circle
and join our hands in solidarity.

when all have
joined hands,
continue:



Lord our God,
you know all things.
You know that we want to be more
generous in serving you and our neighbour.
Look on us with love and hear our prayer.
Help us to turn away from sin.
Help us to become more loving.
Help us to keep the promises we made
today.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

All make the sign of the cross
as the leader says:

Leader:

May the almighty and merciful God
bless and protect us, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Sing a hymn of praise and
thanksgiving.

Reverence for Life — a Service of Prayer [pp. 179-183]

Begin with quiet music. Have a focus — eg: a table with candle, arrangement of leaves, bark, stones, shells, picture etc. Group sits around focus.

Reader: *How can you buy or sell the sky?
The warmth of the land? The idea
is strange to us. If we do not own
the freshness of the air and the
sparkle of the water how can we
buy them?*

*Every shining pine needle, every
sandy shore, every mist in the dark
woods, every clearing and humming
insect is holy in the memory and
experience of my people*



All: *We are part of the earth and it is part
of us.*

*This we know. The earth does not
belong to us: we belong to the
earth.*

Reader: *Our dead never forget this beautiful
earth. It is their mother.
They always love and remember her rivers,
her great mountains, her valleys.
They long for the living, who are lonely
too, and who long for the dead.
And their spirits often return to console us.*

[Chief Seattle, 1855, is replying to an offer by the Government of the United States to buy a large area of land and to set aside a reservation for them.
Refer Form 5 Topic A]

Keep music playing quietly. Group members walk up to focus and handle objects gently before replacing them. If they wish, they can add material of their own.

When all have returned to places begin reading:

To You, People from Other Places

Reader 1: *Help us to value our own richness.
Do not think that we are poor
because we do not have what you have.*

Reader 2: Help us to see our chains.
Look at your own chains,
and do not think we are slaves.

1: *Be patient with our people.
Do not think us backward
because we do not follow your line.*

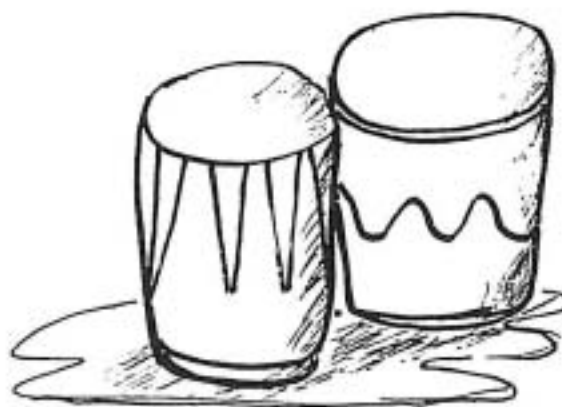
2: Be patient with our progress.
Do not think that we are lazy
because we have a rhythm different from yours.

1: *Be patient with our symbols.
Do not think we are ignorant
because we do not know how to read the words you write.*

2: Remain with us
and sing about the beauty
of the life you share with us.

All: **Remain with us
and admit that we have something to give you.
Accompany us along the way,
neither ahead nor behind.
Be with us as we seek to live
and to reach God.**

—An African bishop



Stand and turn to face all members of the group:

- Reader:** This is the joyful day of the Lord. We greet the coming of your Spirit, like a strong wind blowing, filling the whole house of your Church.
- All:** *Spirit of God, come among us like a strong wind blowing, bearing the seeds of new life.*
- Reader:** Blow from our branches the leaves of the past and let us wait expectantly for the new life that is forming.
- All:** *Spirit of God, come among us like a strong wind blowing and create among us the unity you desire.*
- Reader:** Help us to listen with openness, respect and sensitivity when we meet.
- All:** *Spirit of God, come among us like a strong wind blowing and break down the walls that divide us.*
- Reader:** When we desire to be still, O wind of God, keep stirring us, moving us always outwards to others. Prevent us from becoming so preoccupied with structures that we fail to hear the cries of pain in the community and in the earth.
- All:** *Spirit of God come among us, like a strong wind blowing, revealing all the gifts of our different cultures.*
- Reader:** As the glory of the Autumn lies not in one colour but in the many, so help us to see the beauty and richness that lie in our diversity.
- All:** *Spirit of God come among us, like a strong wind blowing, that this land may know the peace that walks with justice.*
- Reader:** As the wind strips the leaves from the branches, so remove everything that prevents us from seeing the ugliness we create for each other and our environment. Lord Jesus Christ, who is always on the side of the poor, the oppressed, the broken, the rejects, we pray for the brokenness of the earth and its peoples.
- All:** *Spirit of God come among us like a strong wind blowing that the voice of the voiceless may be heard in Aotearoa, and that all may be received with love and respect.*

Intercessions

Leader:

Creator God, bless our world and help us to love and care for it.
Lord, hear us.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader:

O God, may our lovely country reflect your glory.
Lord, hear us.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader:

O God, thank you for all your gifts and for all the things we enjoy in living here.
Help us to protect our environment as your special gift to us.
Lord, hear us.

Response: *Lord, here our prayer.*

(Add as many intercessions as desired)



Sing Together

(Sung to the tune of "Morning Has Broken")

*This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
Sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
Flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
Depths of the ocean, firmness of earth.*

*This day God sends me strength as my steersman,
Might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.
Your eyes are watchful, your ears are listening,
Your lips are speaking, friend at my side.*

*God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, saving from ill,
Angels of heaven, drive from me always
All that would harm me, stand by me still.*

*Rising I thank you, Mighty and Strong One,
King of creation, giver of rest,
Firmly confessing, Threeness of persons,
Oneness of God-head, Trinity blest.*

From The Prayer of the Church
ICEL

Final Prayer Together:

O God, you have blessed us with this wonderful world. All the beings of your creation, the animals, plants, mountains, stars, the entire universe respect your laws. Help us, who are also your children, created out of your great love, to respect all forms of life and to live in peace and harmony with each other and all the world.

Amen.



A SERIES OF BLESSINGS:

May the God of simplicity be with you, opening you to a clear vision of what is real and true, leading you deeply into the mystery of childhood; and may your dealings with others be marked by the honesty which is simplicity; may the blessing of simplicity be on you.

May the God of patience be with you, waiting for you with outstretched arms, letting you find out for yourself, and may his patience with all the young who fall from small heights and the old who fall from greater heights be your patience; may the blessing of patience be on you.

May the God of peace be with you, stilling the heart that hammers with fear or doubt or confusion; and may your peace, the warm mantle of your peace, cover those who are troubled or anxious; may the blessing of peace be on you.

May the God of joy be with you, thrilling you with divine nearness, filling your throat to ringing, singing exultation; may the blessing of joy be on you.

May the Triune God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you drawing you ever nearer, speaking to you of unity, true community where distinction of persons is also oneness in being; may the blessing of community be given to us, may it radiate around us and so bring others to the God who remains for ever.

Adapted from: **'Inviting the Faculty to Pray'**
by Sr Maria Joseph Walsh sjc 1986
with permission of NCEA, Washington



Funeral Rites

Vatican II called for a revision of funeral rites to express the Paschal character of Christian death.

The Rites are contained in the **Order of Christian Funerals** prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, published by Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago 1989. This should be available from your local parish priest.

Structure of Funeral Rites

Vigil and Related Rites and Prayers

Funeral Liturgy

Rite of Committal

The **Order of Christian Funerals** also includes

Funeral Rites for Children

Texts of Sacred Scripture

Office for the Dead

and Additional Texts.



It is central to Catholic belief and practice to celebrate a Mass of Requiem when a person dies. It is also Catholic tradition to pray for all the dead on the Feast of All Souls [2 November] as well as having Mass [Eucharist] celebrated for the dead on other occasions eg: anniversary of death.

Prayers for the dead may be offered at other times eg: office for the Dead, and in prayer services and memorials.

A Selection of Prayers for the Dead —

chosen from **The Order of Christian Funerals**

A young person

Lord,
your wisdom governs the length of
our days.
We mourn the loss of [N.,]
whose life has passed so quickly,
and we entrust him/her to your
mercy.
Welcome him/her into your heavenly
dwelling and grant him/her the
happiness of everlasting youth.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

[p.342]

A young person

Lord God,
source and destiny of our lives,
in your loving providence
you gave us [N.]
to grow in wisdom, age, and grace.
Now you have called him/her to
yourself.
As we grieve the loss of one so
young, we seek to understand your
purpose.
Draw him/her to yourself and give
him/her full stature in Christ.
May he/she stand with all the angels
and saints, who know your love and
praise your saving will.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

[p.342]

General

God of all consolation,
open our hearts to your word,
so that, listening to it, we may
comfort one another, finding light in
time of darkness and faith in time of
doubt.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen. [p.337]

General

O God,
to whom mercy and forgiveness
belong, hear our prayers on behalf of
your servant [N.,]
whom you have called out of this
world; and because he/she put his/her
hope and trust in you, command that
he/she be carried safely home to
heaven and come to enjoy your
eternal reward.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen. [p.337]

An elderly person

God of endless ages,
from one generation to the next
you have been our refuge and
strength.

Before the mountains were born or
the earth came to be, you are God.
Have mercy now on your servant
[N.] whose long life was spent in
your service.

Give him/her a place in your
kingdom, where hope is firm for all
who love and rest is sure for all who
serve.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen. [p.345]

A parent

God of our ancestors in faith,
by the covenant made on Mount
Sinai you taught your people to
strengthen the bonds of family
through faith, honour, and love.
Look kindly upon [N.,]

a father/mother who sought to bind
his/her children to you.

Bring him/her one day to our
heavenly home where the saints
dwell in blessedness and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen. [p.343]

One who worked in the service of the Gospel

Faithful God,
we humbly ask your mercy for your
servant [N.,]
who worked so generously to spread
the Good News:

grant him/her the reward of his/her
labours and bring him/her safely to
your promised land.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen. [p.341]

General

God of loving kindness,
listen favourably to our prayers:
strengthen our belief that your Son
has risen from the dead and our hope
that your servant [N.]
will also rise again.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen. [p.336]

General

Into your hands, O Lord,
we humbly entrust our brother/sister
[N.]

In this life you embraced him/her
with your tender love;

deliver him/her now from every evil
and bid him/her enter eternal rest.

The old order has passed away:
welcome him/her then into paradise,
where there will be no sorrow, no
weeping nor pain, but the fullness of
peace and joy with your Son and the
Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

R. Amen. [p.336]

General

Almighty God and Father,
it is our certain faith that your Son,
who died on the cross,
was raised from the dead, the first
fruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Grant that through this mystery
your servant [N.,]
who has gone to his/her rest in
Christ, may share in the joy of his
resurrection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen. [p.335]

The following is an example of a memorial service for a deceased student, composed by members of one school.

† Memorial Service for a Deceased Student

A memorial service for a deceased student can be a most significant spiritual experience and a special moment of growth for a school community. Although painful, it can be an experience which brings strength and healing to grieving friends.

The following points could be helpful in planning such a service:

- A memorial service does not stand alone. What happens before is as important as the more formal service. Students need to know they are allowed to grieve and should feel supported in practical ways.
- A school memorial service is most appropriately held about a week after the death or when students have begun to come to terms with the shock and grief of the event.
- The format needs to be kept simple.
- The family of the deceased should be informed of the service and invited to attend if they wish.
- The planning of the service is best done as a collaborative effort on the part of staff and students, with an interested and sympathetic staff member initiating the meeting. The process is slow, but has its own part to play in the healing which must take place if friends are to make a healthy adjustment to everyday life.
- All students who wish to be involved should know their ideas are respected and listened to. The wishes of close friends of the deceased should be given special consideration.
- The co-ordinator takes note of students who wish to contribute. Some follow-up assistance may be required.
- Volunteers, perhaps close friends of the deceased, could keep the family informed about what the school is planning. It can help the family if students known to them are on hand to welcome them to the school and escort them into the chapel or assembly hall when they arrive for the memorial service.
- There is no set format for a memorial, the service being as unique and individual as the student and school concerned. Much will also depend upon the circumstances and allowances must be made for this.

† Memorial Service for Peter (a suggested format)

The following service arose out of much talking and listening when Peter, a sixth former, died of leukaemia. Peter's friends decided they wanted the memorial service to be a celebration of his life and the many gifts he had used well. It was also in response to Peter's wishes that he did not want his funeral to be dreary. The music, readings, prayers and indeed the whole service reflected this. The focal point was a small, attractively covered table displaying a large photo of Peter, lots of spring blossom, the paschal candle and a blossom tree which would be carried out to be planted at the end of the service.

The format was simple, yet moving.

Welcome to family, and the sympathy of the school community expressed by a senior student.

"I get by with some help from my friends" — played while friends placed symbols of Peter's gifts on and around the centrepiece.

*Tributes read by — Principal
Friends
Senior Student*

These took the form of poems, personal reflections, prayers and more formal, though short, eulogies.

Reading: Matthew 25:14-23 (The Talents)

Prayers for Peter's eternal happiness.

Prayers thanking God for the life, gifts and example of Peter's life.

Planting of tree.

"Bridge Over Troubled Waters" — played while friends, family and senior students leave hall.
