



Parish Liturgy for Catholic Schools Week

Sacred Space

This could include symbols that represent the distinctive identity of each Catholic school in the parish. If a display area has been set up in the church to mark Catholic Schools Week, this is the ideal place to put the symbols presented before the liturgy.

Introduction

Priest

This week celebrates the gift of Catholic Schools and of Catholic Education. During this week, students, staff, parents, grandparents, members of boards and the people of the parish will show, in lots of different ways, that they are proud of their Catholic school. Welcome to our time of prayer together, as we celebrate the Catholic Schools Week 2021.

We begin our prayer together

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us take a moment to be quiet in the presence of the Lord.

Opening Hymn

Christ be our Light; Here I am, Lord, or suitable alternative (*While the opening song is being sung, the lighted candle is carried in and placed in the prayer space/altar*)

Opening Prayer

Loving God, as we gather in prayer, we thank you for your presence with us. Help us and our school community, to be places of Hope, Love, Faith and Resilience. May we become more and more like your son Jesus who, by his words and actions, showed your unconditional love for all people. May we learn to be like him, trusting in you and reaching out to those around us. May your Holy Spirit be the source of inspiration and wisdom as we journey together in faith, hope and love. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Reader

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

For I am the Lord your God, the holy God of Israel, who saves you.

I will give up Egypt to set you free;

I will give up Ethiopia and Seba.

I will give up whole nations to save your life, because you are precious to me and because I love you and give you honour.

Do not be afraid - I am with you! "From the distant east and the farthest west, I will bring your people home.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm (sung)
The Lord is My Shepherd

Priest A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath, he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people.

Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

All the people in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him, as he said to them, *this passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read.* (Good News Bible)

The Gospel of the Lord

Intercessions

Priest: We now turn to our God in prayer. The response to our prayer is: *'Lord graciously hear us'*.

Reader: We pray for Pope Francis, for our Bishop Donal, for all priests in the diocese and for all who work to bring God's message into our world. May Christ's example be always in their hearts and minds as they go about doing the work that Jesus called them to do.

Lord hear us ...

Response

Reader: We pray for all our families who during this time of lockdown are doing their very best to meet the needs of their children. May their homes continue to be places of faith, kindness and understanding.

Lord hear us ...

Response

Reader: We pray for our teachers and all who work in our diocesan schools. Help them to be resilient during this very challenging time and to trust in your unconditional love and your presence in their lives.

Lord Hear Us

Response

Reader: We pray for all in our diocesan faith community: that together we will place our trust in God; that we will care for those in our community who are experiencing, loneliness, anxiety, pain at this time.

Lord hear us ...

Response

Reader: We pray for all our students whose lives have been disrupted by the pandemic. May they one day soon, once again meet their friends, attend school and do ordinary everyday activities we once took for granted. May they know God's love for them through the actions of others and may they share that love with those less fortunate than themselves.

Lord hear us ...

Response

Reader: We pray for all those from our diocesan school community who have died: especially those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic and for whom saying goodbye was particularly difficult. We pray that all our deceased are now with God in heaven.

Lord hear us ...

Response

Reader: We take a moment to call to mind our own prayers and intentions...

Lord hear us ...

Response

Priest: We bring these and all our prayers together in the words Jesus taught us, Our Father who art in heaven....

Closing Prayer

Loving God we entrust ourselves and our schools to you. Daily guide our hearts, minds and actions so that we may work for the good of all. May our schools continue to be beacons of light which enable all to live the Gospel message – ‘love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.’ (John 13:34) We ask this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn Go tell Everyone....

Scriptures are from the Good News Bible © 1994 published by the Bible Societies/HarperCollins Publishers Ltd UK, Good News Bible© American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992. Used with permission.