**February 11th World Day of the Sick**

**School Assembly**

**Leader:**

Today is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and it is also a day of prayer for the sick and for those who care for them. Today in our assembly we want to think and pray for the sick in our school, home and community. It is a good opportunity to thank God also for the gift of our own health.

**Reader 1:**

We listen to the words of Jesus when he talked about those who are sick and those suffering or struggling with life.

**Reader 2:**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
    for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek,
    for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
    for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
    for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
    for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
    for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.

**Reader 3**:

We pray today for the people we know who are sick or struggling with life.

For children and young people who are sick, may we help them by giving them our time and sharing love and care with them.

Lord Hear Us: Lord Graciously Hear Us

For adults who are sick; parents, aunties and uncles, grandparents, neighbours and friends. May we be considerate and compassionate by praying for them and offering our support in whatever way we can.

Lord Hear Us: Lord Graciously Hear Us

For those who care for the sick, doctors, nurses, family members and volunteers. We ask God to bless their work , help them to always provide patient and loving care to every person.

Lord Hear Us: Lord Graciously Hear Us.

**Reader 1:**

We listen to the miracle story of Jesus healing the sick.

**Reader 2:**

Many people gathered together so that there was no room in the house, not even outside the door. And Jesus was teaching them God’s message. Four people came, carrying a paralyzed man. Since they could not get to Jesus because of the crowd, they dug a hole in the roof right above where he was speaking. When they got through, they lowered the mat with the paralyzed man on it. When Jesus saw the faith of these people, he said to the paralyzed man, Young man, your sins are forgiven. Some of the teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, Why does this man say things like that? He is speaking as if he were God. Only God can forgive sins.

Jesus knew immediately what these teachers of the law were thinking. So he said to them, Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to tell this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to tell him, ‘Stand up. Take your mat and walk’? But I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, stand up, take your mat, and go home.” Immediately the paralyzed man stood up, took his mat, and walked out while everyone was watching him.

The people were amazed and praised God. They said, “We have never seen anything like this!”

**Reader 3:**

We thank God for miracles and for the power of Jesus to heal. We ask him to heal those we love who are sick.

Lord Hear Us

We think about the people who sadly are not able to get better. We pray that God will help give them strength and peace and make sure they have good people to help them.

Lord Hear Us

We pray for our own health. Help us God to stay well and thank you for the energy and fun we can have. May we look after ourselves so we can continue to enjoy life.

Lord Hear Us

**Leader:**

On this feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes we say a prayer to Mary for all those we know who are sick and need our prayers. We take a second to think of someone sick to pray for (pause)

We pray together

Hail Mary full of grace.........

**Reflection**

*Heartprints*

Whatever our hands touch-
We leave fingerprints!

On walls, on furniture
On doorknobs, dishes, books.

There's no escape.
As we touch we leave our identity.

Oh God, wherever I go today
Help me leave Heartprints!

Heartprints of compassion
Of understanding and love.

Heartprints of kindness
And genuine concern.

Lord, send me out today
To leave Heartprints.

And if someone should say
"I felt your touch,"
May that one sense YOUR LOVE
Touching through ME.