

# Prayer Service

## Catholic Schools Week 2023

### You Will Need

- A large candle with Wrapper (page 4 of this resource)
- A prayer space containing an open Bible and a holder for the candle.
- One person to carry the lighted candle and place it in the prayer space.
- Readers

Children to carry Posters with the words, Listen, Pray, Welcome, Share, Protect, Celebrate

### LEADER: WORDS OF WELCOME

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to our time of prayer together during Catholic Schools Week when we are celebrating how we walk together in faith and love in our school.

We begin our prayer by marking ourselves with the sign of our faith 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 God ...

### OPENING SONG: GROW IN LOVE *(or any other suitable song)*

*While the opening song is being sung, the lighted candle is carried in and placed in the prayer space.*

**LEADER:** During Catholic Schools Week, the pupils, staff, parents, grandparents, members of boards of management and the people of the parish will show in lots of different ways that they are proud of their Catholic school. It is good to celebrate who we are and what we do.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is Catholic Schools: Walking Together in Faith & Love. This year's theme is a reminder that Pope Francis has asked everyone in the world who belongs to the Church to go on a journey of listening and talking about the kind of Church that we want to be in the future. When we walk together in faith and love we are being the kind of people that God wants us to be, we are learning to know and love God more each day. Our Catholic school helps us to do this every day.

Let's take a few minutes to think about how we walk together in faith and love in our schools every day.

*Child holds up Poster with the word 'Listen'.*

**READER 1:** We walk together in faith and love when we listen to one another.

*Child holds up Poster with the word 'Pray'.*

**READER 2:** We walk together in faith and love when we pray together.

*Child holds up Poster with the word 'Welcome'.*

**READER 1:** We walk together in faith and love when we welcome newcomers to our school and our community.

*Child holds up Poster with the word 'Protect'.*

**READER 2:** We walk together in faith and love when we take time to look after God's world and protect the earth, our common home.

*Child holds up Poster with the word 'Share'.*

**READER 1:** We walk together in faith and love when we share what we have with those who are not as lucky as we are.

*Child holds up Poster with the word 'Celebrate'.*

**READER 2:** We walk together in faith and love when we celebrate that God loves us always.

**LEADER:** Let's look at all those words again. I am going to ask the children to place the words in our Prayer Space. This week we are all going to try to put those words, listen, pray, welcome, protect, share and celebrate into action so that we will really walk together in faith and love every day. Most of all we are going to try and live like Jesus because that is what makes our school different – that is what makes our school a Catholic school.

*The children and leaders return to their seats.*

#### **A TIME TO TALK TO GOD IN PRAYER:**

**LEADER:** We know that God always listens to us when we pray and so.....

**RESPONSE:** Hear our Prayer

**READER 1:** We pray for our parents and everyone who takes care of us: may they always help us to walk in love and faith. Lord in your mercy ...  
**Response**

**READER 2:** We pray for all who work in our school: that they will continue to show us the way to walk together in love and faith. Lord in your mercy ...  
**Response**

**READER 3:** We pray for our priests, parish sisters, parish workers and all in our parish faith community, that, together, we can continue to learn to live

as Jesus wants us to. Lord in your mercy ... **Response**

**READER 4:** We pray for people who are looking for shelter and refuge, especially those from the Ukraine, help us to always be ready to welcome them into our school and our community. Lord in your mercy ... **Response**

**READER 5:** We pray for Pope Francis, for our bishop Denis, for all priests and for all who work to bring God's love into our world. May faith and love always be in their hearts and minds as they go about doing the work that Jesus calls them to do. Lord in your mercy ... **Response**

**READER 6:** We pray that all who are sick at this time may know God's healing love and that all those we love who have died may live forever in God's loving arms. Lord in your mercy ... **Response**

**LEADER:** Let us now pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**LEADER** God of love,  
we know that you are always with us.  
May we carry the light of Christ  
in our hearts, in our minds and in  
our deeds,  
and may our school continue to be a place  
where we accept the challenge to walk  
together in faith and love every day. Amen.

*If the priest is present you might ask him to give a blessing at this time. Otherwise conclude:*

We end our prayer time as we began, by marking ourselves with the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**CONCLUDING SONG**                      **Christ be Our Light** *(or any other suitable song)*

Walking Together in Faith & Love