



Catholic Education Week 6th - 12th September 2020

Listen to what the Spirit is saying in the Virtual Classroom

BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Recognizing the central role that the Plenary Council will play in the life of the Australian Church in 2021 and beyond, the theme for Catholic Education Week 2020 is ***Listen to what the Spirit is saying***. This theme focuses on listening and discernment (making choices) which is borne from rich dialogue. Pope Francis defines discernment as more than intelligence or common sense: *'It is a gift which we must implore. If we ask with confidence that the Holy Spirit grant us this gift, and then seek to develop it through prayer, reflection, reading and good counsel, then surely we will grow in this spiritual endowment.'*

Gaudete et Exsultate #166

REMINDERS FOR TEACHERS:

Be aware of Covid restrictions when handling symbols, candle, bible. Remind children participating at school, to wash their hands before and after the prayer service – especially if they are readers who share a copy of the service. Ensure they are sitting with space between them.

*Due to COVID restrictions – students/teachers at school are **not** permitted to sing along with the chosen gathering and/or final hymn.*

Those students who are attending school, may wish to prepare a PowerPoint for the Litany.

PREPARATION OF SACRED/PRAYER SPACE AS A BACKDROP 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.

PRAYER SERVICE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to pay our respect to and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, *(insert name of local custodians)* their Elders past, present and emerging, who walked upon and cared for this land and its waters, for thousands of years and continue to do so. We acknowledge the lasting, deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

We Gather

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Introduction/Welcome:

Sound prayer chime/prayer bells /singing bowl/rain stick to call those present to stillness and silence. Or an appropriate gathering song of your choice could be played to gather all to this stillness and silence.

Due to COVID restrictions – students/teachers at school are not permitted to sing along with the chosen hymn.

Greeting: Welcome to our prayer today... (Create own words of greeting to your community)

LEADER: Let us pray....
God, since the beginning, you have walked with humankind, totally concerned for our welfare, tenderly watching lest we stumble and fall. You reach out to help us in troubled times, you make our paths straight with your mercy and create wide roads so that we can walk together towards you. You have given us the opportunity of education in our Catholic schools so that we can understand your love and bring this to the world. Strengthen us for our journey at this time and for the future. Your Holy Spirit has breathed new life and filled the earth with many good gifts. Fill us with the fire of your great love so that we may listen to what the Spirit is saying.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

God Speaks - We Listen

(Choose only one of these readings.

If students are chosen to read, ensure that they are able to PROCLAIM the Readings – ie. that they are well prepared so that they do not stumble over the words of the Reading.)

Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-2

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

OR

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

OR

John 10: 14-16; 27-28

Jesus said to them, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish."

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

SHORT TIME of SILENCE

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: United in your love and compassion, we pray:

Reader: For all those who lead and educate in our Church, especially Pope Francis and Bishop Paul Bird. May your Spirit stir their hearts in compassion and love.
Spirit of hope...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who work in and attend our Catholic schools. Strengthen us so that our schools will always be communities of faith, hope and love. Spirit of hope
...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who participate in education online. May we utilize this format in an honest and honourable way, respecting all we encounter in the online world.
Spirit of hope...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For all God's people. In this time of COVID, may we radiate Christ's love and peace to our family, friends and all we encounter. Spirit of hope ...

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader: For those in our school and parish communities who are lonely, ill, sad, isolated, grieving and may feel unloved. May we be open and present to their needs. Spirit of hope ...

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, we gather the needs and concerns we have spoken along with those deep in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray in the words Jesus gave us
Our Father who art in Heaven....

THE CONCLUDING RITES

LITANY:

LEADER: As we finish our prayer calling on the Spirit to lead us into Catholic Education Week let us pray...

Reader: Help us to know what is just and do it.

All: Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

Reader: Help us find you in everyone we meet, face to face and online.

All: Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

Reader: When we are in trouble, help us remember your words of peace.

All: Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

Reader: Help us hear your messengers of Good News, in the real world and online.

All: Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

Reader: When we are hopeful, help us kindle that hope in others.

All: Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

Reader: When people are wronged, help us seek justice instead of revenge.

All: Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

Reader: When we are quick to judge, help us to understand.

All: Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

Reader: When we are quick to condemn, help us to praise.

All: Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

Reader: In the darkness of COVID, let us be light for others

All: Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

LEADER: Creator God, help us to listen to what the Spirit is saying to make your kingdom real in this place and this time. Help us to transform the world into your dream.

All: Amen.

Dismissal **God Sends – We Go**

Leader: Let us go in peace
To love and to be loved
To welcome and to belong
To serve and to be nourished

All: Amen