



## Liturgy of the Word – Primary

### RESOURCES

- Prayer focus
- Procession – one student from each year level, three symbols relevant to your school community, three LED/candles, Book of the Gospel
- Script for gospel and reflection unpacking the scripture, 6–8 students
- Computer with PowerPoint presentation loaded
- Music – opening song, closing song

### COMMENCE PPT – SLIDE 1

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY – SLIDE 2

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's spiritual and cultural connection to Country, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we meet and educate our children.

We recognise the continued care of the lands and waterways passed from generation to generation, wisdom that is shared, and life that is celebrated in harmony with the natural environment.

We honour the Elders past and present who have laid the foundations, traditions and culture for emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and we commit to working together for reconciliation and justice.

### INTRODUCTION

Student 1: This week is Catholic Education Week.

Student 2: Really? I thought every week was Catholic Education Week. What is Catholic Education Week?

Student 1: It is a week that is celebrated by all Catholic schools in Melbourne. This year the theme is 'The Way of the Gospel', encouraging us to focus on how we can live as people of faith in the way Jesus taught us.

Student 2: So it's not just for our class or our school, but all the Catholic schools in Melbourne?

Student 1: Yes. The way of the gospel is what connects us in the spirit of Jesus. The spirit of Jesus is present in every Catholic school community from as far north as Seymour and as far south as Sorrento.

Student 2: As far east as Mansfield and as far west as Torquay.

Student 1: Did you know there are 335 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne? And around 17,000 staff work in these schools and 150,000 students attend these schools?

Student 2: Wow! There really is a lot to celebrate isn't there?

Student 1: Well, what are we waiting for? Please join us in singing the opening song.

### WE GATHER – SLIDES 3–6

Procession

- Music/opening song.
- PowerPoint Slide 4 word is displayed ('walk')
- Prep student comes forward bearing a symbol/accompanied by Year 1 student with LED/candle. The symbol and candle are placed across the front/on the prayer focus.



- When the action is completed, display PowerPoint Slide 5 ('way') as a student from Year 2 brings forward a symbol with a Year 3 student bringing an LED/candle. The symbol and candle are placed across the front/on the prayer focus.
- When the action is completed, display PowerPoint Slide 6 ('gospel') as a student from Year 4 brings forward a symbol with a year 5 student bringing an LED/candle. The symbol and candle are placed across the front/on the prayer focus.
- A student from Year 6 comes forward, carrying the Book of the Gospel.

Leader: And so we pray.

**All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## WE LISTEN – SLIDE 7

### GOSPEL READING (Matthew 5: 1–12)

Student 1: Come (*calling out to others*). Jesus is up on the hill. Let us go hear what he has to say.

*Students walk together in a group and sit in front of the reader.*

Student 2: Many people came to hear Jesus teach. Often Jesus would sit on the side of a hill so that people could see him while he shared with them how they could grow in God's way. The Beatitudes are some of the things that Jesus shared with the people. The word *Beatitude* means 'blessings'. This Gospel reading is from the Gospel of Matthew and is known as The Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3–12).

Student 3: God blesses those people who depend only on him. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.  
God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!  
God blesses those people who are humble. The earth will belong to them!  
God blesses those people who want to obey him more than to eat or drink. They will be given what they want!  
God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy!  
God blesses those people whose hearts are pure. They will see him!  
God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called his children!  
God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right. They belong to the Kingdom of God.  
God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. Be happy and excited! You will have a great reward.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Students present the unpacking of the scripture.*

## REFLECTION – SLIDE 8

Jesus describes the way God wants us to live. Jesus especially mentions the merciful, those with pure hearts and those who work for peace. Jesus blesses the humble, those who grieve, as well as those who are treated badly for doing the right thing.

Jesus showed us how to live by actions. He extended compassion by reaching out and touching the sick and contagious, to those who were left out, feared or laughed at.

He gave dignity to those who were outcasts or lived on the fringes of society.

Jesus listened to people closely and showed care for their worries and concerns.



Think of the times when you have tried to do the right thing, to be a friend, or comfort or help others.

Think of the people who have been a friend or comfort to you when things have been difficult.

These actions are ways that Jesus lived his life and that's why they are called 'the way of the gospel'. We live out Jesus' example when we reach out to others in loving and caring actions.

What do you think Jesus would have said if he was speaking today – what actions are especially important for us in the 21st century?

### RESPONSE – SLIDE 9

Leader: Loving God, we trust that you want us and the whole world to be blessed and so we now pray.

Reader: For our families: that we may appreciate their care for us and that we may sow love through patience and kindness. *(Symbol: A floral representation of beauty.)* Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For our school community: that we may learn from each other, our patron saint(s) and the stories of all those who walked our sacred grounds before us. *(Symbol: Flags, including Australian Indigenous flags to represent diversity, and house colours.)* Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For our broader community: that those who are sick, lonely, troubled or in need will feel the transforming power of God's love. *(Symbol: Water and oils for healing.)* Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For Catholic education in Victoria: that the spirit within our schools and offices will continue to inspire our faith-filled learning communities to follow the way of the gospel. *(Symbol: Cross/candle which represents the light of Christ.)* Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Gracious God, hear the prayers we make with faithful and trusting hearts. We ask them in Jesus' name.

**All: Amen.**

### CLOSING PRAYER – SLIDE 10

Leader: May God's spirit continue to inspire us to go out into the world as people who walk in the way of the gospel, and bring the gifts of love and compassion to our world.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: May God's son, Jesus, continue to walk with us as we share ourselves and our resources to bring peace and healing to our world.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: May almighty God bless us, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

### WE GO FORTH

Song