



Liturgy of the Word – Secondary

WELCOME

Good morning parents, staff and students. Welcome to our liturgy celebrating Catholic Education Week 2022 and the theme 'The Way of the Gospel'. Catholic schools are founded on the person of Jesus, and Jesus' mission is our mission. The gospel provides us with examples of how we can walk the way of the gospel. We will hear from the Gospel of Matthew in this liturgy which celebrates the wonderful contribution Catholic education makes to our school community and Australian society.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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 unites us in the spirit of Jesus. The one spirit 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

Opening Hymn (see Song Suggestions)

Leader: And so we pray.

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

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, God of all creation,

As we celebrate the great gift that is Catholic education in Melbourne,
we give thanks for the many ways you walked beside us,
held, comforted and inspired us.

In embracing our way of the gospel,
we also rejoice in the knowledge that our stories
are woven into the spirit that flows through
all our faith-filled communities.

As we look towards the future,
may we walk boldly forward,
trusting in the plans you have for us.
We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen

WE LISTEN

First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah (29: 10-14)

'I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord,
'plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me,
and I will listen to you.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

I will be found by you,' declares the Lord,
'and will bring you back from captivity.'

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (see Song Suggestions)

Gospel Acclamation (John 8: 12)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel (Matthew 5: 1-16)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'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 receive 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 for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WE REFLECT

Reflection offered by a member of your community. (See notes below for suggestions on what the reflection could focus on. Connect to actions, values, charism of your school community.)

- Jesus' Beatitudes emphasise that what God values and what human cultures value are not always the same thing. Blessed-ness is an inner strength that comes from the knowledge and trust that God is with you and in control, whether you are smiling or crying, when you feel empty, when you're trying to make peace, when people persecute you.
- Sit quietly with this for a moment. Maybe you would like to close your eyes.
- What do Jesus' words mean for you as a person walking the way of the gospel in this time?
- Think about the groups you belong to. (For example, school, classroom, family, extended family, sporting teams, neighbourhoods, special interest groups.) Think about one of these groups in particular and the people who make up this group. Can you see who walks alongside you, who lives their life in this way?
- What about yourself? Let's sit for a moment and think about what's really great about you. Maybe you are kind, caring and thoughtful or maybe you are funny and happy and brighten people's day. Where is God inviting you to walk the way of the gospel and be salt and light for others?
- It is through our actions that we follow the way of the gospel – actions that enable all people to have an opportunity to flourish and know they are loved, not only by making a difference but being the difference.

PLEASE STAND AS WE PRAY TOGETHER

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Symbols are brought forward as each reader prays.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, you told us to ask and we would receive, so we bring you our needs, confident of your compassion and care. And now we 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: 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.

WE ARE SENT FORTH

Leader: May God, whose Spirit renews our hearts, continue to inspire us to go out into the world and walk in the way of the gospel

All: Amen

Leader: May God, source of all goodness, show us how to bring the gifts of grace and healing to our world.

All: Amen.

Leader: May God, the heart of our faith-filled communities, continue to inspire us to share all that we have in love, as we journey together towards a hope-filled future

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Final Hymn (see Song Suggestions)

APPENDIX

Song Suggestions

Opening

We Are – Steph Unger and Gavin Agnew

United As One – Matthew Walker

Gather Us In – Marty Haugen

Psalm

My Soul Is Thirsting For You – Steve Angrisano

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) – Matt Redman

The Trusting Psalm – Kevin Bates

May God be in My Heart – Andrew Chinn (Many Roads, One Journey)

You are the Light – Michael Mangan (Forever I Will Sing)

Follow Me – Andrew Chinn (These Hands)

People of God – Andrew Chinn (This Day)

Closing

Inspired to Serve – Judy Bailey

Go Make a Difference – Steve Angrisano

All the People Said Amen – Matt Maher

What a Friend We Have in Jesus – Matt Maher

Send Us Out – Gen Bryant

Called – Steph Unger