



Catholic Schools Week 2019

Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools

Prayer/Service Assembly to Begin Catholic Schools Week 2019

YOU WILL NEED

- A large candle with the words: kind and just; school family; welcoming everyone; living like Jesus (cf. final page of this document).
- 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.
- Two readers, and seven children to hold up posters or signs with the following words: just, compassionate, school family, welcoming everyone, live like Jesus.
- Five people to read the Prayers of Intercession.

This prayer service can be used at the beginning, during or towards the end of Catholic Schools Week 2019. It could be held in a classroom, school hall or a prayer room. Members of the local parish community could be invited, including the parish priest or school chaplain. Parents and grandparents could also be invited as part of the week's celebrations.

Leader: Good _____ (morning/afternoon/evening) everyone, and welcome to our time of prayer together as we _____ (begin/close) Catholic Schools Week 2019. We begin our prayer: 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

A hymn that celebrates the uniqueness of your Catholic school should be chosen to open the service. Possibilities could include 'Christ be our Light', 'Here I am, Lord' or 'Gifts from God' by Bernard Sexton (lyrics available at education.dublindiocese.ie/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/.../20.Gifts-from-God.pptx)

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

Leader: Today we begin Catholic Schools Week. During this week, the pupils, staff, parents, grandparents, members of boards 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 the work that we do.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Own Catholic School. This year's theme is a reminder that we should celebrate the wonderful work that we do as a Catholic school. God calls us to use our gifts and talents in our school to help others, to be kind, to be merciful and to pray. God calls us to live like Jesus.

Let's see some of the ways that we might do this during the coming week.

Reader 1: We celebrate the work of our Catholic school when we ...

Children 1 and 2 hold up the signs with the words 'just' and 'kind' on them and say the words. Alternatively all those present could shout out the words.

Reader 2: We celebrate the work of our Catholic school when we are a ...

Children 3 and 4 hold up the signs with the words 'school' and 'family' on them and say the words. Alternatively all those present could shout out the words.

Reader 1: We celebrate the work of our Catholic school when we ...

Children 5 and 6 hold up the signs with the words 'welcome' and 'everyone' on them and say the words. Alternatively all those present could shout out the words.



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Reader 2: We celebrate the work of our Catholic school when we are...

Child 7 holds up the sign with the words 'live like Jesus' on it and says the words. Alternatively all those present could shout out the words.

Leader: Let's take a moment to look at all those words again. I am going to ask the children to place the words in our prayer space for Catholic Schools Week. This week we are all going to try to put those words into action. We are going to accept the challenge of really being a Catholic school and celebrate just how special and wonderful the work our school does. We are going to do our very best to be kind and just. We are going to be a school family. We are going to make everyone feel welcome and most of all we are going to try and live like Jesus because that is what makes our school so unique and special – that is what makes our school a Catholic school.

The children and leaders return to their seats.

Prayers of Intercession



Leader: We now turn to our God in prayer. The response to our prayer is: 'Lord graciously hear us'.

Reader 1: We pray for our parents: that they may always be as kind and just as God our Father in heaven is kind and just. Lord hear us ... **Response**

Reader 2: We pray for our teachers and all who work in our school: that they will continue to help to make our Catholic school a place where everyone is made to feel welcome. Lord hear us ... **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 hear us ... **Response**

Reader 4: We pray for people who are looking for a home, for those going through difficult times and for those who are ill. May they know God's love for them through the actions of others. Lord hear us ... **Response**

Reader 5: We pray for Pope Francis, for our bishop [insert name], for all priests and for all who work to bring God's message into our world. May Christ's example be always in their hearts and minds as they go about doing the work that Jesus called them to do. Lord hear us ... **Response**

Leader: Let us now pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...



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Closing Prayer

Leader: God of love and mercy,
we know that you are always with us.
May we always carry the light of Christ in our hearts, in our minds and in
our actions, and may our school continue to be a place where we work as a
community to help live the Gospel message; to love one another as you have
loved us. 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 'This is the Day'

