



Prayer/Service Assembly to Begin Catholic Schools Week 2020

You will need

- A large candle with the words: kind & just; school family; welcoming everyone; living like Jesus (see 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: Kind; Being a good friend; Care for environment; Care for our families; Thank God for the gifts we have; 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 2020. 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 2020. 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/2016/09/20.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.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is 'Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God's Creation'. This year's theme asks us to think about how we live our lives. We are all part of God's creation. How we treat others, the world around us and how we look after ourselves, these are the ways we can live in harmony with God's creation.

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



Reader 1: We live in harmony with God's creation when we ...

Children 1 and 2 hold up the signs with the words 'Kind' and 'Being a good friend' on them and say the words. Alternatively all those present could shout out the words.

Reader 2: We live in harmony with God's creation when we ...

Children 3 and 4 hold up the signs with the words 'Care for the environment' and 'Care for our families' on them and say the words. Alternatively all those present could shout out the words.

Reader 1: We live in harmony with God's creation when we ...

Children 5 and 6 hold up the signs with the words 'Thank God for the gifts we have' on them and say the words. Alternatively all those present could shout out the words.

Reader 2: We live in harmony with God's creation when we ...

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 how we work together to live in harmony with God's creation. Through kind words, kind thoughts and kind actions, we live as God calls us to. We can live in harmony with God's creation by following Jesus' example and treating others as we would like to be treated.

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 kind and just as God our Father in heaven is kind and just. Lord hear us.



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.

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.

Reader 4: We pray for people who are homeless, 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.

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.

Leader: Let us now pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...





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 the Lord has Made **or** any hymn the school thinks appropriate or the children would be familiar with.



KIND & JUST
SCHOOL



FAMILY



WELCOMING
EVERYONE
LIVING LIKE



JESUS



lee — ell

