

TE KUPENGA
NATIONAL CENTRE
FOR RELIGIOUS
STUDIES

A Prayer Companion

**for Catholic School Boards
in Aotearoa New Zealand**





“How beautiful are the footsteps
of those who bring good news”

Romans 10:15-17

*“Anō te ātaahua o ngā waewae
o te hunga kawē mai i te rongo
whakahari o ngā mea papai.”*

Rōma 10:15-17

Dame Whina Cooper set out with young
and old on a journey in the ‘wairua’ of mission for a
cause; with this Prayer Companion, we too set out on a journey of
prayer-karakia companioned by God across all the dioceses of Aotearoa
New Zealand echoing the words of St Paul to the Romans which our Bishops used
to embark on the core document *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*.

PHOTO: DAME WHINA COOPER AND HER GRANDDAUGHTER, IRENE COOPER, BEGIN THE HIKOI (1995).
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A Prayer Companion

for Catholic School Boards
in Aotearoa New Zealand

This resource is intended to be used in conjunction with
The Catholic Education of School-Age Children,
New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference 2014



Originally produced by NCRS within TCI. In 2020 TCI merged with Good Shepherd College to become Te Kupenga which is mandated by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops to be the national tertiary provider of theological formation and religious education qualifications for the Catholic Church of New Zealand.

This mandate is carried out within the framework of *Ex Corde Ecclesia*, and the New Zealand Catholic Church's commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi.

Contents

Introduction	3
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A. Main areas for reflection

Twelve Reflections with a Year 1 and 2 option presented in the format of a Liturgy of the Word.

1	Beginning of the Year: Lent	5
2	Companions on the journey <small>EASTER</small>	9
3	Reviewing sections of the document <small>EASTERTIDE</small>	13
4	Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Pentecost	17
5	School Gospel Values <small>ORDINARY TIME / ALL YEAR</small>	21
6	Visitation <small>ORDINARY TIME / ALL YEAR</small>	25
7	The nature of a Catholic school <small>ORDINARY TIME / ALL YEAR</small>	29
8	Catholic social teaching: Introduction <small>ORDINARY TIME / ALL YEAR</small>	33
9	Catholic social teaching: Reflections on each principle <small>ALL YEAR</small>	39
10	The sacraments of initiation <small>ALL YEAR</small>	53
11	Charisms of founding Religious Orders <small>ALL YEAR</small>	57
12	Endings and beginnings: Advent	63

B. Pick and Mix

Some additional alternatives cross referenced to twelve sessions above.

Beginning of the Year: Lent		
1.1	Beginning of the Year – Annual commissioning prayer reflection for Boards of Trustees	68
1.2	Prayers for Lent	70
Companions on the journey <small>EASTER</small>		
2.1	On the Road by Joy Cowley	72
Reviewing sections of the document <small>EASTER</small>		
3.1	Scripture Cards	72
Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Pentecost		
4.1	Prayers for reconciliation	76
4.2	Prayer Cards for the fruits of the Holy Spirit-Te Wairua Tapu	77
School Gospel Values <small>ORDINARY TIME / ALL YEAR</small>		
5.1	Beatitude Prayer Cards	78
Visitation <small>ORDINARY TIME / ALL YEAR</small>		
6.1	Blessing by Joy Cowley	80
The nature of a Catholic school <small>ORDINARY TIME / ALL YEAR</small>		
7.1	From <i>Honest to Goodness</i> by Joy Cowley	80
Catholic social teaching: Introduction <small>ORDINARY TIME / ALL YEAR</small>		
8.1	References for the Common Good	81
Catholic social teaching: Reflections on each principle <small>ALL YEAR</small>		
9.1	A Peace Blessing	83
9.2	An alternative prayer and general reflection for the common good	83
The sacraments of initiation <small>ALL YEAR</small>		
10.1	Faith by James B Lyons	85
10.2	From <i>Laudato Si'</i> by Pope Francis	85
Charisms of founding Religious Orders <small>ALL YEAR</small>		
11.1	11.1 Litany of Thanks for the Communion of Saints/saints	86
Endings and beginnings: Advent		
12.1	Prayers for Advent	87

C. Prayers for a variety of occasions

Selection of traditional prayers	90
For Catholic character	91
For discernment, disciplinary, decision making or public media communication	92
For staff appointments, welcome and farewell	93
For Catholic Character Review and for ERO visits	94
For death and 'going home'	95
For blessing new rooms	96
For welcome and farewell of student trustees	99
Psalm Cards	100
Useful websites	103
References	104
Acknowledgements	105

Introduction

Background to *A Prayer Companion*

The 2014 New Zealand Catholic Bishops document *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children* is the source and inspiration for this publication. *A Prayer Companion* has as its kaupapa in “Facilitating Discipleship”:

- #51 “... attention needs to be paid to all aspects of Catholic character... which belong to the encounter stage of the journey of discipleship. These include good experiences of prayer and liturgy, regular access to the sacraments (including Reconciliation), and retreats which are truly Catholic and spiritual in nature.”

Aims

This resource aims to provide

- Boards with a ‘Pick up and Pray’ prayer and reflection resource for meetings;
- regular opportunities ‘to break open’ with prayer and reflection, sections of the NZCBC document *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, linked with the liturgical year/the board’s year, the *Handbook for Boards of Trustees, Principals and Staff of Catholic Integrated Schools*. Also *Catholic Special Character Review and Development*; and
- links in prayer with bi-cultural and inter-cultural aspects of school communities.

A. **The Twelve Main Reflections** provide prayers for Board meetings in the form of a Liturgy of the Word based on the liturgical year/Board’s year/references from sections of the NZCBC document and include:

- Gathering prayer.
- Scripture linked to the document and the school; making this link is essential not optional.

Note: Whenever the Gospel is read you will see a symbol † (the Gospel Cross). As we speak the words, “Glory to you, O Lord,” we sign our bodies with a cross, inviting the Gospel to be on our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

- Reflection on the Scripture passage linked to a section of the document followed by discussion connected with application to the Catholic character.
- Concluding prayer and blessing for the end of the Board meeting.

Each reflection has a year 1 and 2 option. The colour used for each Reflection connects and corresponds with each season of the Church’s liturgical year.

B. **Pick and Mix Resources** which:

- are cross-referenced with the Twelve Main Prayer Reflections;
- provide additional/alternative sections to supplement prayer at future meetings.

C. **Prayers for a variety of occasions** including:

- A selection which Boards may encounter

D. **Online supporting material**

- **An Introductory Prayer Seminar for Boards** is available online. This resource contains a workshop session for Boards entitled “What is Prayer?” which is especially useful as background support for this *Prayer Companion* and as part of the initiation for new Board members.
- **Unpacking the document** – for a supplementary meeting.
- **Scripture cards** (see pp 72-75.)
- **Fruits of the Holy Spirit cards** (see p 77.)
- **Beatitude Prayer cards** (see p 78.)
- **Psalms cards** (see p 100.)

All these are available online at <http://www.tci.ac.nz/bot-resource>

Preparation is important

The Board Chair and appropriate personnel need to prepare for each meeting as follows:

- Prayer roster established. Prayer decided on and circulated. Prayer Leader and Scripture Proclaimer for the meeting confirmed. Leader for meeting and prayer confirmed.
- Proprietor's appointees link with DRS and Principal regarding resources such as the bible, candle etc needed.
- Board secretary/minute taker keeps record of what prayer is used.
- Time for prayer and reflection no more than ten minutes at the meeting. Finish with short closing blessing or prayer.

1

Beginning of the year: Lent



“Follow faithfully the Way of Jesus Christ
Tell courageously the Truth of Jesus Christ
Live joyfully the Life of Jesus Christ.” Ecclesia in Oceania

*Kia pono te whai atu i te huarahi o Hēhu Karaiti
Kia maia te whakapuaki i te pono o Hēhu Karaiti
Kia harikoa te manawa i roto i te nohonga o Hēhu Karaiti*



Lent and Beginning of the Year

YEAR 1

Introduction: Document Reflection

#50 “Many of the Catholic character activities schools undertake with their students outside the religious education programme have the potential to lead the students to that intimate encounter with God which is the beginning of an adult commitment to Jesus Christ and his Church.”

#51 “... These include good experiences of prayer and liturgy, regular access to the sacraments (including Reconciliation), and retreats which are truly Catholic and spiritual in nature.”

From “Facilitating Discipleship” in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.

Reflection

Chairperson: At the beginning of the school year Catholic schools have a variety of liturgies which celebrate different aspects of the Catholic character.

- a. How do we as a Board support these liturgies? Are we present and prayerfully participating?
- b. What do we have in place to help encourage meaningful, vibrant, prayerful and participatory liturgies?
- c. Do we encourage students, priests and teachers to share with us their experiences of liturgy and the needs they have in order to provide them with regular opportunities to celebrate liturgies especially the Sacraments.

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent is significant. If the first Board meeting of the year is close to Ash Wednesday, the cross made with ashes could be part of a Board Commissioning Prayer/ Liturgy of the Word.

The following could be used at the beginning of the year or at other Board meetings at various stages during Lent in the Term 1.

Sign of the Cross.

Leader 1: As we make the Sign of the Cross we remember the ash cross we said Amen/ Yes to.

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

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**



Leader 2: God of Reconciliation, we know that Jesus came to bring us closer to You and one another. May the many peoples within our own country and in all nations be given the courage to live in co-operation and rangimārie-peace. May who we are, and what we give to others this Lent, truly help to make the world a better place. **Amen.**

(This links in with the time around Waitangi Day.)

Leader 1: Lent is a time we spend preparing for Easter. Lent is a time of prayer, penance, promises and provision of resources for the needy so:

Kia ĭnoi tātou – Let us pray (pause)

Leader 2:

God of love and care.

We come to listen to your words in Scripture and in those around us.

During Lent teach us to be servants of one another, our school and those in need in our community.

Guide us in being generous and forgiving. May we “Walk the Way of Jesus Christ, tell the Truth of Jesus Christ, and live the Life of Jesus Christ.” **Amen.**

+Cardinal John Dew Vision for Catholic Education.
Archdiocese of Wellington adapted from John 14:6 in
Ecclesia in Oceania

Sign of the Cross.

YEAR 2

Introduction: Document Reflection

Leader: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

Kia ĭnoi tātou – Let us pray (pause)

God of love and care.

We come to listen to your words in Scripture and in those around us.

During Lent teach us to be servants of one another, our school and those in need in our community.

Guide us in being generous and forgiving. May we May we “Walk the Way of Jesus Christ, tell the Truth of Jesus Christ, and live the Life of Jesus Christ.” **Amen.**

+Cardinal John Dew Vision for Catholic Education.
Archdiocese of Wellington adapted from John 14:6 in
Ecclesia in Oceania

Scripture Reading

A time for everything (Eccl 3:1-8)

Prayer based on the book of Ecclesiastes

(Five leaders required.)

(This reading is very useful and versatile. On other occasions you can add in the theme of what you are exploring as a Board eg. Gracious God hear our prayer for ... writing policies/Annual Plan/ Review/Board Training.)

Leader 1: Let us pray that during this time of Lent there will be a time for everything:

A time for giving birth

A time for dying

A time for planting

A time for harvesting

A time for healing

Gracious God hear us.

All: Gracious God hear our prayer for Lent.

Leader 2: We pray that there will be

A time for knocking down



A time for building up
A time for tears
A time for laughter
God of celebration hear us.

All: God of Celebration hear our prayer for Lent.

Leader 3: We pray for
A time for grieving
A time for dancing
A time for throwing away
A time for keeping
God of wisdom hear us.

All: God of wisdom hear our prayer for Lent.

Leader 4: We pray for an awareness of
A time of being quiet
A time for speaking
A time for tearing
A time for sewing
A time for loving
A time for hating
God of Creation hear us.

All: God of creation hear our prayer for Lent.

Leader 5: We pray for
A time of searching
A time of stillness
A time of noticing
A time of nurturing
A time of action
A time of giving
A time of penance, prayer and praise
God of seasons hear us.

All: God of seasons hear our prayer for Lent.

Prayer

Leader: Let's silently reflect on which of these 'times' from our reading, we need to focus on for Lent, both individually and as a Board.

God of Reconciliation, we know that Jesus came to bring us closer to You and one another. May the many peoples within our own country and in all nations be given the courage to live in co-operation and rangimārie-peace. May who we are, and what we give to others this Lent, truly help to make the world a better place. Amen.

For 'sending forth' from the meeting

Leader: Haere koutou i runga i te rangimārie.
Go in peace.

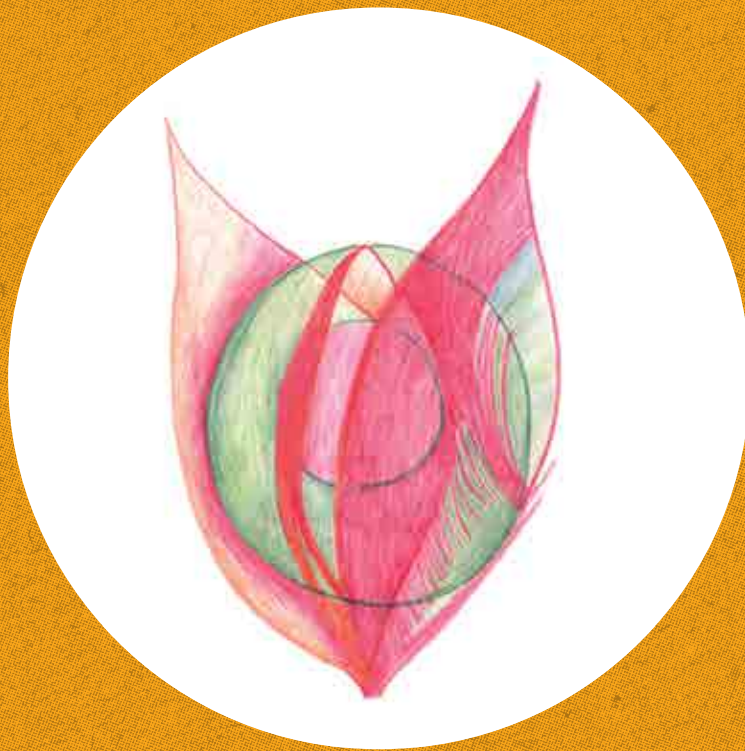
All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua. Thanks be to God.

General Prayer Selection for Lent

An additional selection of prayer and scripture for Lent including Reconciliation are to be found in the **Pick and Mix** section 1.1 and can be used for other years.

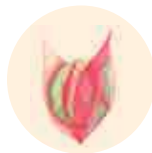
2

Companions on the journey



“How beautiful are the footsteps of those
who bring good news.” Rom 10:15-17

*“Anō te ātaahua o ngā waewae o te hunga kawē mai i
te rongo whakahari o ngā mea papai.” Rōma 10:15-17*



Companions on the journey

YEAR 1

Leader: We gather and begin the 'journey' of this Board Meeting.

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

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

Let us "Walk the Way of Jesus Christ, tell the Truth of Jesus Christ, and live the Life of Jesus Christ."

+Cardinal John Dew Vision for Catholic Education.
Archdiocese of Wellington adapted from John 14:6 in *Ecclesia in Oceania*

As companions on a journey let us listen to how Jesus journeyed with others.

Scripture

The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:24-32)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke †

All: Glory to you O Lord

"When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing: then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

#13 "A genuine and ongoing encounter with Christ gives rise to a desire to know more about him and his teaching. Facilitating that encounter is an essential function of the Catholic school..."

Reflection

Leader: Keeping in mind how Jesus journeyed with his companions, how do/could we promote the above goals in our Board activities and support of staff and students in our school? Share.

God of journey, bless us with your presence on the journey of this Board meeting. **Amen.**

YEAR 2

Leader: Reflect silently on the picture of Whina Cooper on the Land March on the inside front cover of this book, and on the line from Scripture Rom 10:15-17.

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

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

Jesus, companion us in this Board meeting.

Walk with us, helping us to recognise what is happening.

Help us to trust You and each other.

Help us to recognise You as we 'break open the bread' of our agenda.

Walk with us on our Emmaus journey of today. **Amen.**

Scripture

The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:35)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke †

All: Glory to you O Lord

"Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread."

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection

Leader:

'Effective evangelisation occurs when we are in touch with people's lives and walk with them from there ...'

Adapted from *Evangelii Nuntiandi* Paul VI (47) NZCEO Handbook p 144.

As members of a Board journeying with this community of a Catholic integrated school, how do we acknowledge and reflect the spirit and presence of Jesus in our Mission Statement, in our policies, reports and other documents for our meetings?

How are we in touch with the lives of our school community?

How do we walk with them, talk with them and represent them as companions of a faith community on a journey together? Share.

Let us pray – Kia ĭnoi tātou.

God of our journey

Thank You for creating the roads we travel

Jesus our brother

Thank You for travelling with us

Holy Spirit our guide

Thank You for enlightening and protecting us on our way. **Amen.**

Haere koutou i runga i te rangimārie.

Go in peace.

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua.

Thanks be to God.

3

Reviewing sections of the document



Come Holy Spirit – te Wairua Tapu fill
us with the Joy of the Gospel.

*Haere mai e te Wairua Tapu – whakakāia o
mātou manawa i te harikoa o te Rongopai.*



Reviewing sections of the document

Year 1 and 2

Purpose: To pray before reviewing sections of *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference 2014. This prayer reflection based around #46 may be used as a model for the Board to review or explore other appropriate sections.

Leader: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Ki te ingoa o Te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

In the words of one of the Eucharistic acclamations from the Mass, we pray together.

We proclaim your Death O Lord, and proclaim your Resurrection until you come again.

#46 “The key components of the Catholic character of a school include the people who facilitate the encounter with Christ and accompany the young disciple on the resulting journey (Catholic educators); the catechetical response to the young disciple’s need for knowledge (the Religious Education Programme); formation which leads to growth in Catholic virtues and values, and – where appropriate – the living of the particular charism of the school, usually derived from the founding Religious Order; and the lived common good approach and witness of the wider faith community within which the school is situated, usually a parish or parishes.”

From “Catholic Character” in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.

Let us reflect in silence on the above statement:

Choose one area from our school that we can celebrate and one that we need to work on.

(You may like to highlight key phrases.) Brief feedback.

Let us rejoice that we have the Holy Spirit – te Wairua Tapu with us.

Pope Francis alerts us to the fact that Jesus himself “rejoiced in the Holy Spirit” and so we listen.

Scripture

Rejoice in the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:21)

Proclaimer: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke †

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

“...filled with joy by the Holy Spirit, he said, ‘I bless you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

(Allocate 7 people to prayer the prayers.)

Leader: Let us pray with joy that the Holy Spirit – te Wairua Tapu will empower, encourage and enhance the Catholic character of our school in the ‘wairua’ of our school motto ...

1. For all Catholic educators in schools, parishes and families of Aotearoa New Zealand who journey with young people on their Faith journey ... (pause)

All: Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu inspire them

2. For all who teach at our school especially the teachers who teach the R.E. Programme ... (pause)



**All: Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu
enlighten them**

3. For a growth in Catholic virtues and values especially those chosen for the Gospel values at our school ... (pause)

All: Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu guide them

4. In thanksgiving for the legacy given to our school from the charism of our Founding Order (name) ... (pause)

All: Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu give us grateful hearts

5. For an awareness of working for the common good with a spirit of mutual respect and service to the person of Christ in all ... (pause)

All: Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu gift us with care and compassion

6. For a spirit of connection with all the parishes and communities in the Pastoral Area that contribute to our school ... (pause)

All: Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu unite us in Faith, Hope and Love

7. In the spirit of the first Pentecost may we as a school community, bring to life the words of Pope Francis 'joy is a sign that the Gospel has been proclaimed and is bearing fruit' ... (pause)

All: Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu gift us with the Joy of the Gospel.

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Come Holy Spirit – te Wairua Tapu.

Fill us with the joy of the Gospel so that we may 'plant seeds', recognise opportunities, nurture possibilities, transform lives, rekindle enthusiasm and walk in the footsteps of Jesus with all in our school community. **Amen.**

Based on Bishops' message NZCEO Orange Handbook p 147.

Optional

Leader: Let us now read together our Mission statement.

(To be provided by the principal.)

Haere koutou i runga i te rangimārie.
Go in peace.

**All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua
Thanks be to God**

4

The fruits of the Holy Spirit: Pentecost



“Since the Spirit is our life, let us be
directed by the Spirit” Gal 5:25

*“Ki te mea e ora ana tātou i roto i te Wairua, kia
haere anō tātou i roto i te Wairua” Karatia 5:25*



The fruits of the Holy Spirit: Pentecost

YEAR 1

#69 “Virtue deriving from the relationship with Christ himself is thus always a guaranteed authentic component of witness, and grows in every stage in the journey of discipleship.”

From “Values and Virtues” in *The Catholic Education for School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014

Leader: We gather and pray together.

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Āmene.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**God of Love
Create in us
warm and welcoming
hearts.**

**Jesus, source of Joy
Fill us with the
hope of
Your Resurrection.**

**Inspiring Spirit
Enlighten, enable and empower us
with Your wisdom and peace.**

As a Board in a Catholic School we prayerfully connect with the first Pentecost as we listen to this reading.

Scripture

The apostles receive the Holy Spirit (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting ... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

How is the movement and presence of the Holy Spirit reflected in our school mission statement, school motto, school song? Share.

Closing Prayer

Let’s pray together from the *Opening prayer for Pentecost*.

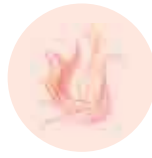
May the Holy Spirit make us witnesses before the world to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

YEAR 2

#69 “The practice of virtues leads us deeper into the life of Christ, as virtues have God for their origin, their motive and their object.”

From “Values and Virtues” in *The Catholic Education for School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014

#1830-1832 “The gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit dispose those who receive them to live a virtuous life.” (cf Catechism of the Catholic Church)



Leader: We gather and pray together.

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Āmene.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu.

As the Board of a Catholic school, mould us, help us, empower us, enable us, transform our lives and those of our school community. Amen.

Scripture

**Fruits of the Holy Spirit
(Galatians 5:16-25)**

Proclaimer: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians

"If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self indulgence, since self indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is because the two are so opposed that you don't always carry out your good intentions ...

What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, humility and self-control. There can be no law against things like that of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify self-indulgent passions and desire.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Leader:

1. Which of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit do you need more of, and which is a strength of yours? The strength is often reflected in what people compliment you about. (For your personal reflection only).
2. How do the Fruits of the Holy Spirit link with the Gospel values and virtues promoted in our school? Which of the fruits is a strength of our school, and which needs working on?

Share with two other trustees then share back to the whole Board.

Kia ĭnoi tātou – Let us pray.

All: Come Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu.

We pray that we will create
a school community, which will with your
transforming power,
melt hatred into love
convert sadness into joy
still anxiousness into peace
turn selfishness into kindness
change mean ways into generosity
transform ignorance into faithfulness
soften sharpness into gentleness
transfer self-centeredness into self control.

All: Come Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu.

Let's pray in silence about one of these fruits of the Holy Spirit that we need.

Blessing

Leader: Haere koutou i runga i te rangimārie
Whakakorōriatia te Ariki te āhua o tōu noho.
Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life.

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua.

Thanks be to God.

*(You may like to pray this in other languages
pertinent to your school.)*

5

School Gospel Values



“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31

“Ā, ko tā koutou e pai ai kia meatia e ngā tāngata ki a koutou, meatia anō e koutou ki a rātou.” Ruka 6:31



School Gospel Values

YEAR 1

Prayer Reflection

Based on the NZCBC Document and linked with Gospel values chosen by the School.

#65 In recent years the emphasis on values in the New Zealand Curriculum has led most Catholic School to define and promote the values they wish to inculcate in their students. The school may describe these as “gospel values” or identify particular values as part of the school’s charism.

From “Values and Virtues” in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.

Gospel Values background statement for our School

(Before the meeting check with the Principal/DRS what the Gospel values for the year are and if they have posters/cards you could use.)

Leader: The Gospel values identified by our school ...(name) for focus this year are (name them). *(Light the school candle. Reflect in silence.)*

In the ‘wairua’ of these values and linked with the whole school community, we pray for the guidance, wisdom, and protection of the Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu, on us in our role as Board of Trustees at this time and so we gather

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

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

A: Creator God

Bless us as we gather
for this meeting
to discuss, debate, decide
so that ‘your will may be done’
in our school.

B: Jesus our Teacher

Guide us in your ways
Show us possibilities
of living your Gospel values.

Help us to discover new ways
of working with each other.

A: Spirit of the Living God

Encourage, empower, enliven
us with Gospel values as we work
through our agenda.

B: Bless us with words, ways and
wisdom to build up the
Catholic Character of our school.

Amen.

Scripture

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-11)

Proclaimers: (Voice 1, Voice 2)

Voice 1: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew †

All: Glory to you O Lord

V1: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

V2: Values: Faithfulness & Integrity

V1: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

V2: Values: Dignity & Compassion

V1: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth

V2: Values: Humility & Gentleness



YEAR 2

Read silently from *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children* section, "Values and Virtues".

#65 The emphasis on values in the New Zealand Curriculum has led most Catholic schools to define and promote the values they wish to inculcate in their students. The school may describe these as "gospel values"...

Gathering Prayer

Leader: We gather

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

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

Scripture quote "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke: 6:31

Reflect on a time in your own life and as a Board member where this saying was important to you.

In the spirit of the section from the Bishops' document and the passage from Scripture let us reflect on the following:

1. How do we as a Board reflect Gospel values in our Board policies and decision making?
2. How do we as a Board support our school in promoting and living out school Gospel values?

Share.

We pray in thanksgiving for the Gospel values we are focusing on as a school.

We pray that our Gospel values of ...
(name the values) will help us to

"Walk the Way of Jesus Christ, tell the Truth of Jesus Christ, and live the Life of Jesus Christ."

+ Cardinal John Dew 'Vision for Catholic Education for the Archdiocese of Wellington'. Based on John 14:6 and adapted from *Ecclesia in Oceania* 2001.

V1: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied

V2: Values: Truth & Justice

V1: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy

V2: Values: Forgiveness & Mercy

V1: Blessed are the poor in heart, for they will see God

V2: Values: Purity & Holiness

V1: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God

V2: Values: Tolerance & Peace

V1: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.

V2: Values: Service & Sacrifice

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Used with permission from TCI Distance Education RE201
What makes a school Catholic?

Leader: In silence pick one of the values that speaks to you personally? How and Why?

In the above Gospel reading pick a line that echoes an important Gospel value that this school has in its goals this year? How are these being promoted? What action plans are in place?



Beatitudes for Boards

(Suggest that Board members take turns around the table to read these beatitudes which can be found as cards on page 78.)

Blessed are those who greet each meeting with a fresh approach.

Blessed are those who believe in possibilities even if the odds are against them.

Blessed are those who go to extra meetings with a calm and generous heart.

Blessed are those who welcome and serve guests at meetings with a smile.

Blessed are those who share the glory of God, not gossip.

Blessed are those who choose wise words in controversial discussion.

Blessed are those who safeguard the sacredness of whenua-land and tangata-people.

Blessed are those who problem solve with the conviction of Jesus' Gospel values.

Blessed are those who walk with others in the 'footsteps of Jesus'.

Blessed are those who speak quietly with conviction at Board meetings .

Blessed are those who can get to the heart of the matter with calm consideration.

Blessed are those who trust that for Boards – Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Blessed are those who record, unscramble and make sense of Board Minutes.

Blessed are those who are open to all possibilities for they shall encompass the wairua-spirit of God who 'makes all things possible' through Him, with Him and in Him.

Amen.

Prayer

All: God, centre of Gospel values, help us to trust You in all our decisions based on Your values.

Amen.

Blessing

Leader: Haere koutou, pānuitia Te Rongopai a te Ariki.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua. Āmene. Thanks be to God. Amen.

(You may like to pray this in other languages pertinent to your school.)

6

Visitation



“My soul proclaims the
greatness of God.” Luke 1:46

“*Ka whakanui tōku*
Wairua i te Atua.” Ruka 1:46



Visitation

YEAR 1

Gathering:

(Student Trustee to light school candle.)

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

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Āmene.

Leader: With the words of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* we gather:

“Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey ...” and so as a Board of Trustees in a Catholic School and as Disciples of Jesus we pray in the spirit of ‘Visitation’.

Mary gives us a good example of this when she experiences the ‘visitation’ with her cousin Elizabeth. They have an encounter with each other and the Living God through their own presence and in the new life they both carried.

Kia ĭnoi tātou – Let us pray.

- A:** Haere mai e te Wairua Tapu
Come Holy Spirit.
Enthuse us as your Trustees to be life-giving in our discussions.
- B:** Haere mai e te Wairua Tapu
Come Holy Spirit
Empower us to be bearers of the Good News of Jesus.
- A:** Haere mai e te Wairua Tapu
Come Holy Spirit
Encourage us to visit our agenda with faith and trust.
- B:** Haere mai e te Wairua Tapu
Come Holy Spirit.

Leader:

#28 The Catholic School is first and foremost “a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.”

From “Young New Zealand Catholics” in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.

Let us reflect on this as we listen to the Gospel.

Scripture

Mary visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-42)

Proclaimers (Voice 1, Voice 2):

Voice 1: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke †

All: Glory to you O Lord

“In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb ...

And Mary said, my soul magnifies the Lord, How do we as a Catholic school board mirror Jesus?

and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour,
V2: How do we as a Catholic school board rejoice in how God saves us?

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

V2: Have we as a Catholic school board thanked God for blessing our service?



Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

V2: Have we as a Catholic school board encouraged prayer to Mary?

for the Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is his name.

V2: What ways do we as a Catholic school board name and give thanks for the great things God has done for us?

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

V2: What ways do we as a Catholic school board honour the spirit of forgiveness in the history of our school?

He has shown strength with his arm,

V2: How have we as a Catholic school board shown God's strength and justice?

He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts,

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly,

V2: How have we as a Catholic School Board shown God's humility?

He has filled the hungry with good things,

V2: What ways has God filled us as a board of a Catholic school?

and sent the rich away empty.

V2: What ways have we as a Catholic school board filled up the hungry?

He has helped his servant Israel,

V2: How has God helped us as board of a Catholic school?

in remembrance of his mercy,

V2: How will we as a Catholic school board remember God's mercy?

according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

V2: How will we as a Catholic school board help keep God's promises to all generations?

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection

Leader: Share in small groups your responses to the questions linked with the Gospel. Feed back to whole Board.

Prayer

Let's pray together.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

YEAR 2

Prayer

Leader: "How beautiful are the footsteps of those who bring good news." Rom 10:15-17.

From *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, p 2.

Reflection

Leader: As a Board we have shared Good News by ... *(share examples)*.

Scripture

Leader: Revisit Luke 1:39-42 in Year 1 Prayer.

Let us reflect on other ways we encounter the 'living God' in our daily visitations as we listen to the following from Anne Powell.

Reader: *(pause between each line)*

Visit us

Visit us
in the breath of wind
in endurance of cliffs
in glow of Kowhai
in silence of stars
in solitude of moon
in eyes of the poor
in embrace of a mother
in pleasure of friends
in faith that does justice.

By Anne Powell from *Enough Clear Water*



Leader: We pray together, for our school.

(Choose from English or Te Reo versions.)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Awe e Maria, e kī ana koe i te karatia. Kei a koe te Ariki.

E whakapaingia ana koe i roto i ngā wāhine,

ā, e whakapaingia ana hoki a Hēhu, te hua o tōu kōpū.

E Hāta Maria, e te matua wahine o te Atua, īnoi koe mō mātou, mō te hunga hara, āianeī, ā, a te haora o to mātou matenga.

Āmene

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Āmene.

(You may like to pray the Sign of the Cross in languages appropriate to your school.)



Painting of Mary's Visitation by Brother Tony Leon FMS Australia.

7

The Nature of a Catholic School



“They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2: 42

“Ā, i ū tonu rātou ki te whakaakoranga
a ngā āpōtoro, ki te kotahitanga, ki te
whawhati taro, ā, ki te inoi.” Ngā Mahi 2:42



The Nature of a Catholic School

(Choose from the following selections. We acknowledge James B Lyons for this area of reflection.)

YEAR 1 OR 2

Leader: We gather

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#7 As an ecclesial entity the Catholic school reflects the nature of the Church. It proclaims the word of God in its programmes and activities...

*From "The nature of a Catholic school" in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.*

Proclaiming the Word

Jesus, our saviour and our brother.

You are present because we have gathered in your name.

So, in your presence, we declare ourselves ready and very willing to carry you, the Living Word of God, into the lives of all we meet:

at this Board meeting, at home, here at school, in our work place – everywhere we go.

Jesus be with us now. **Amen.**

Reflection

How do we see these sentiments reflected in our people, places, prayers, policies and our Mission Statement?

Scripture

Be imitators of God (Eph 4: 31-52)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

"Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God as beloved children, and live in love as Christ loved us... May our words speak only goodness."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Take a minute for quiet, personal reflection.

Closing Prayer

Leader: May our actions never give cause for fear or alarm.

May we offer our opinions with respect, our concerns without judgement. Like you, Jesus, may we always be eager to forgive, to trust and to persevere.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Sign of the Cross.



YEAR 1 OR 2

Leader: We gather

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#7 As an ecclesial entity the Catholic school reflects the nature of the Church. It proclaims the word of God in its programmes and activities; it celebrates the Sacraments and assists parents and parishes in preparing the members of its community for their reception...

From "The nature of a Catholic school" in The Catholic Education of School-Age Children, NZCBC, 2014.

Celebrate the Sacraments

Jesus, you are the Christ, the chosen and anointed one.

In you, and in your words and actions, we see our God.

In your body, the Church, you gift us with sacred signs, sacraments, through which you continue to share your life with us and assure us of God's unconditional love and mercy.

Water, oil, light and human gestures provide visible signs that guide us to your presence and gift us with the Holy Spirit. Lift our hearts in joyful praise as we celebrate these Sacraments.

Refreshed and nourished by their life giving power we offer ourselves in loving service of all.

In your Name we pray. **Amen.**

Reflection

How do we as a Board promote, support and encourage:

1. preparation for the sacraments
2. opportunities for celebrating the sacraments in connection with the Liturgical Year? Does our Charter reflect these opportunities?

Scripture

First Christian communities
(Acts 2: 42, 46-47)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

"They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers ... Day by day as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Take a minute for quiet, personal reflection.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Lift our hearts in joyful praise as we celebrate these sacraments.

Refreshed and nourished by their life giving power we offer ourselves in loving service of all.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Sign of the Cross.



YEAR 1 OR 2

Leader: We gather

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#7 As an ecclesial entity the Catholic school ... in its embrace of those students who are disadvantaged it exercises the ministry of charity, as well as in the charitable works that the school community might undertake.

From "The nature of a Catholic school" in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.

Exercises the ministry of charity

Leader: To love as you have loved us:
This is your command!

We cannot be your disciples without committing to a love like yours – a love that is patient and kind and generous in every way. Strengthen our resolve to live seriously a life of loving service to:

- embrace the needs of others as our own,
- imitate your compassion and your readiness to forgive,
- meet sadness with joyful hope.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our way, our truth and our life. **Amen.**

Reflection

How do we include in our agendas, policies and action plans, Jesus' spirit of servant-hood as reflected above and in the Scripture?

Scripture

Washing the disciples feet
(John 13:12 -15)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John †

All: Glory to you O Lord

"After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example that you should do as I have done to you.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Take a minute for quiet, personal reflection.

Closing Prayer

Leader: Jesus, gentle shepherd, your love has no end.

May we follow your example to respect and care for all.

In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Sign of the Cross.

8

Catholic Social Teaching

Introduction



With your basket and my basket
the guests will have enough.

*Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou,
ka ora ai te manuhiri.*



Catholic Social Teaching

Part A: Introduction

Suggestions for use of Prayer and Reflections on Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principles

General Session outline

1. Pray the prayer.
2. Read through CST principles sheets on page 36 and decide in liaison with staff which to include for reflection/action during the school year.
3. In the liturgical season decided upon, use the appropriate CST Principle Reflection sheet from Section 9 to link with your school's Annual plan.
4. Use the school Bible already prepared for the scripture readings.

(Separate sheets to be circulated with BOT papers – see pages 38 and 39.)

Introduction

The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church #160 states:

The permanent principles of the Church's Social Doctrine constitute the very heart of CST. These are the principles of the dignity of the human person which is the foundation of all other principles and content of the Church's social doctrine i.e. Protection of the Poor, the Common Good, Subsidiarity, Solidarity, Participation, Stewardship.

Focus: school candle, school banner, kete with CST Principles & applications sheets (pages 36, 37)

Gathering:

Leader: We are called as a Board of a Catholic school to have as the underlying principle for all our work the 'respect for the dignity – the tapu and mana of each person and to share this by giving to others what is in our basket of life as we live out the principles of CST, in turn receiving from the kete of others.

Read the proverb on page 33. Reflect in silence.

In the 'wairua' of this proverb we gather:

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Āmene.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Psalm 37

Response: The salvation of the just comes from the Lord

A: If you trust in the Lord and do good, then you will live in the land and be secure.
If you find your delight in the Lord, he will grant your heart's desire.

All: The salvation of the just comes from the Lord

B: He protects the lives of the upright, their heritage will last forever.
They shall not be put to shame in evil days,
In the time of famine their food shall not fail.

All: The salvation of the just comes from the Lord



A: Then turn away from evil and do good
and you shall have a home for ever;
for the Lord loves justice
and will never forsake his friends.

All: The salvation of the just comes from the Lord

B: The salvation of the just comes from
the Lord,
their stronghold in time of distress.
The Lord helps them and delivers
them and saves them
for their refuge is in him.

All: The salvation of the just comes from the Lord

Read through the sheet with CST Principles outlined on page 36. (This along with Action sheets on page 37 could have been circulated with the Board papers.)

Reflection

Leader: Let's continue to reflect on these CST Principles and link them with this reading from the Gospel of Luke.

(Using the school Bible invite someone to read the following scripture passage.)

Scripture

The good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel of Luke †

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Take five minutes to reflect on this Scripture passage.

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Prayer for Serenity

O God,
give me the serenity to accept the things I
cannot change
the courage to change the things I can
and the wisdom to know the difference.
Amen.

Īnoi mō te Wairua Mārie

E Te Atua,
Hōmai ki ahau te wairua mārie ki ngā mea e
kore e taea e au te whakarerekē
Hōmai te manawanui ki ngā mea e taea ana e
au te whakarerekē.
Hōmai te māramatanga kia mātau ai au ko
tēhea tēhea. **Āmene.**

Source of translation: Ko Ngā Karakia o Te Miha me Ngā
Himene Maori-English Mass Book.
Nā Pā Ryan tēnei pukapuka i whakatakoto
nāna hoki i whakāta. Te Ūnga Waka 1999

*(You may like to also pray this in the languages
pertinent to your school community.)*

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua – Thanks be to God.

Possibilities for Future Action: Using
Action/Goal sheets in conjunction with
whatever the school staff come up with,
let's select Principles to be covered by
our Catholic school in Goals for our
Annual plan. *(A date may have to be set in
conjunction with the Staff for this.)*



Seven Catholic beliefs about people and their lives

Human dignity

Every person is valuable to Creator God whether they are men or women, boys or girls, old, young, any race or religion, rich or poor, healthy or sick or differently abled. Every person is worthy of our respect.

Protection of the poor and vulnerable

We need to find ways to help those who are poor, in danger, sick or frightened. We must protect them as part of our human family.

Common good

This principle is followed when decisions are made which are the best for everyone in the community or the country. These decisions do not put the rights of a few individuals above the needs of the whole group.

Solidarity

We belong to one big human family. We need to support each other, no matter where we live in the world so that everyone can live peaceful, happy and useful lives.

Subsidiarity

People should have a say in decisions that affect them. As much as possible, communities should make decisions for themselves, rather than large organisations or governments making decisions for them.

Participation

Everybody has a right and a duty to take part in their community and work together so that everyone can be happy. Everybody has the right to be included in activities and groups like schooling, work, culture, politics, or sports.

Stewardship

We do not own the land, the seas or the sky. We must care for them so that all people who come after us can live well too. We need to share the water and food from this earth with the whole human family.

From *The Principles of Catholic social teaching* booklet published for Social Justice Week 2014, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand



What makes a school Catholic?

Putting principles of Catholic social teaching into action in our school of ...

To honour and act on the principle of **Human dignity** in our school we ...

To honour and act on the principle of **Protection for the poor and vulnerable** in our school we ...

To honour and act on the principle of the **Common Good** in our school we ...

To honour and act on the principle of **Solidarity** in our school we ...

To honour and act on the principle of **Subsidiarity** in our school we ...

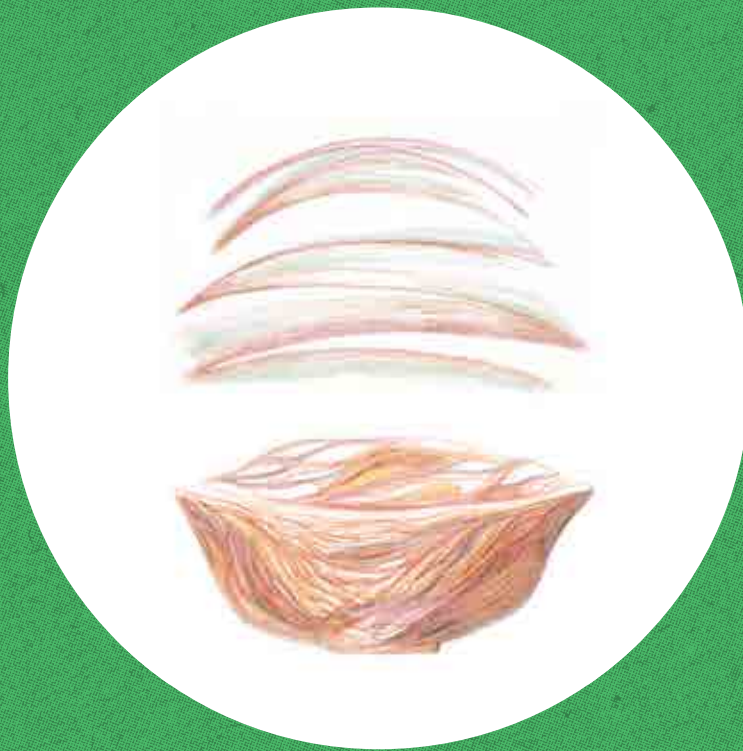
To honour and act on the principle of **Participation** in our school we ...

To honour and act on the principle of **Stewardship** in our school we...

9

Catholic social teaching

Reflections on
each principle



With your basket and my basket
the guests will have enough.

*Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou,
ka ora ai te manuhiri.*





Catholic social teaching

Reflections on each principle

Prayer and reflection for each of the Catholic social teaching principles

This collection of prayers and reflections on each of the Catholic social teaching principles would be considered one at a time and linked in with School/Board Plan/Programmes or seasons.

Background

The Catholic Education of School-Age Children, a document published by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference is the foundation for providing these prayers and reflections.

The reason for this is articulated in the section: "Community and the common good"

#84 Because the Church's social teaching is so integral to the functioning of Catholic schools, individually and as a group, staff and Boards of Trustee members should receive regular training in the principles of Catholic social teaching and their application to their responsibilities. Without this understanding the dedication of enthusiastic staff and trustees to their individual school may drive the school into a competitive and insular ethos, not recognising that each Catholic school has responsibilities to others.

Suggestions for use

The material for each principle includes enough content for some Year One and Year Two alternatives. This will depend on which social teaching principle Boards choose to focus on each year.

Overview for Year One and Year Two

1. Read the definition and the Māori proverb
2. Read the Opening Prayer
3. Read the scripture passage and silently reflect, particularly in the light of sections from *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference 2014.
4. Pray closing prayer or special reflection.



Human dignity

Leader:

Sign of the Cross.

He aha te mea nui o tenei ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

What it is the most important thing in the world. It is people, it is people, it is people.

Scripture

God creates humans (Genesis 1:27:31)

Proclaimer: A reading from the Book of Genesis

"So God created human kind in his image, in the image of God he created them... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: E te Wairua Tapu-Holy Spirit, Come and change our attitudes that we may see the innate dignity of every human person. Enable us to recognise the dignity and beauty in those whom society often overlooks; the disabled, the sick, the very young and the very old. Help us to see Jesus in all we meet. **Amen.**

Read, reflect, respond to the following section in connection with the Mission Statement and Goals of your School.

#74 Each Catholic school is a community within the larger community of the diocese and the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand. The community dimension of a Catholic school embraces students, parents, teachers, priests and benefactors... For the Catholic school mutual respect means service to the Person of Christ. Cooperation is between brothers and sisters in Christ. A policy of working for the common good is undertaken seriously as working for the building up of the Kingdom of God."

From "Community and the common good" in The Catholic Education of School-Age Children, NZCBC, 2014.

Prayer

Let's pray together in upholding the human dignity of our brothers and sisters using the prayer from Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*.

A Prayer for Our Earth

All: Powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures,

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Amen.

Sign of the Cross.



Protection of the poor and vulnerable

Leader:

Sign of the Cross.

We need to find ways to help those who are poor, in danger, sick or frightened. We must protect them as part of our human family.

**Ko tōu manawa, ko taku manawa
Your heart, my heart**

Ko tōu manawa, ko taku manawa
Kia homai tōu Manawa mate mōku
Kia hoatu taku Manawaora mōu
Whiti ora! Maranga mai ki runga

Your heart, my heart
Your heart, my heart,
You give me your dying heart
I give you my living heart
Emerge to life, rise up.

Sourced from *Prayers for School Settings*, Lent 2013, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand.

Scripture

**You who are blessed
(Matthew 25: 31-40)**

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew †

All: Glory to you O Lord

"The king will say to those on his right. 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine you did for me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Read, reflect, respond to the following statement from the Bishops' document.

1. How is this statement reflected in and linked to your school's needs, plans, policies, community etc.
2. What plans do you have in place to promote discussion, action plus involvement and ownership by the community?

#102 Because of the Church's commitment to those who might easily be marginalised and those who face difficulties in learning, the Catholic Character review process should look more deeply and incisively into the provisions which Catholic schools make for students with learning difficulties and special needs.

From "Access to Catholic Schools" in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.

Prayer

Leader: Kia ĭnoi tātou – Let us pray the prayer from Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*.

**All: 'O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.**

**Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.**

We thank you for being with us each day. Amen.'
Sign of the Cross.



The Common Good

Leader:

Sign of the Cross.

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te manuhiri.
With your basket and my basket the guests
will have enough.

Scripture

Common Good (Galatians 6:10)

Proclaimer: A reading from Paul to the Galatians

"So then, as long as we have the opportunity let all our actions be for the good of everybody..."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Leader: How often do we hear the phrase, 'just look after yourself' or 'look after number one.'

But we know this is not the Christian way.
Christ came for everyone. No-one was excluded from his care.

When we are given positions of responsibility, help us to consider the good of everyone we are serving. For we ARE responsible for the well-being of those with whom we live and work.

E Hēhu Karaiti-Jesus Christ

Help us to 'serve you as you deserve to be served' without prejudice or personal preferences.

Discuss

1. How do we apply this principle of the Common Good in our Catholic school?
2. How is this principle reflected in our Charter and in our Mission Statement?
3. How do we see our responsibilities as a Board in upholding this principle for the Common Good?
4. How does what we have discussed link with what our Bishops suggest in the following paragraph from their document *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*?

#79 Cooperation not competition should characterise the relationships between neighbouring Catholic schools, with the good of all being paramount. If one school is attracting students from outside its area in numbers, it potentially weakens the surrounding schools. In such circumstances an enrolment scheme is not just a device to manage numbers but a means of supporting neighbouring schools, an act which fosters the common good.

From "Community and the common good" in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.

Joy Cowley's poem *The Human Race* links really well with this (see under Subsidiarity on page 48).

Prayer

Leader: Kia Īnoi tātou – let's pray the prayer from Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*.

All: 'God of love, show us our place in this world

**as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.**

**Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good,
advocate the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.**

**The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, love and beauty.**

Praise be to you!

Amen.'

Sign of the Cross.



Solidarity

Leader:

Sign of the Cross.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa.
Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

Scripture

This man welcomes sinners
(Luke:15:1-2)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke †

All: Glory to you O Lord

‘The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them’.”

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Leader: E Te Atua-God our Father
We are all connected as part of the human family.
Help us to make a difference by standing in solidarity with those who are in need or facing injustice.
May we ‘act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.’

Amen.

Read, reflect, respond to the following section linked to your school Charter and Mission Statement.

#82 Solidarity calls for a positive commitment to safeguarding the fundamental equality and rights of all, and the promotion of their human development... Catholic schools work together rather than competing for students, and together with their diocesan and national administrations they take care of those schools which are poorer or struggling. (Refer also to #76, #78, #91)

*From “Community and the common good” in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.*

Discuss:

How do we promote solidarity with those in our own school community and between Catholic Schools in our Pastoral Area?
What are some of the barriers to this?
What can we put in place to show our solidarity with other Catholic Schools?

Let’s pray for the principle of solidarity for us as a Board of Trustees in connection with our school staff, students, parents and parishes as we reflect on the wise words of Joy Cowley in *Tzedekah (Justice)* on the following page.

You may like to highlight important phrases.

All: I thank you God, for the knowledge that in Christ Jesus all things are possible. Amen.

Sign of the Cross.



Tzedekah (Justice)

by Joy Cowley

Leader: God our Loving Creator,
in the good news of Christ Jesus we come to you to thank you for the gift of life
and for the wisdom of the Christian tradition
which guides us in the celebration of being.

The Gospels teach us that poverty
is having too much or too little
of this earth's resources. Either way
we have become prisoner to our material wants
and have our wider choices restricted.
Whether we are Lazarus or the rich young man
our material condition will limit our growth.

We read in the gospels the need to work for a living
in employment, and also more directly
for ourselves and for our families
in the growing and preparing of food,
the making of clothing and shelter
creating, using, re-using, recycling,
cherishing the precious resources of this earth.

Again and again the gospels celebrate community.
We respond to the invitation
to share our lives with people
and we offer our time and caring.
Show us how to empower and be empowered by them,
how to share knowledge and skills and build together
a tomorrow that is strong in enduring values.

The Gospels tell us not to judge others
but to become personally involved with decisions
which work for the greater good of society.
We know the danger of becoming armchair critics,
and as we look for opportunities to take part
in the processes that shape our lives,
we ask your strength and wisdom guide us.

From *Psalms Down-Under*. Pleroma Press



Subsidiarity

Leader:

Sign of the Cross.

Subsidiarity means that people should have a say in decisions that affect them.

Scripture

Faith without good works is dead
(James 2:15-17)

Proclaimer: A reading from the letter of James

"If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them,

'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: E te Ariki-Lord God

When we are in positions of leadership or decision-making,
help us to be humble servants of those we are leading.

Help us to consult people who will be affected by the decisions we make,
and allow others to have a say in what happens to them.

E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

Āmene.

Read, reflect, respond to one of the statements below linked to your school's Charter, Mission Statement, Goals and Policies.

#82 For Catholic schools subsidiarity needs to be balanced by the principle of solidarity. Solidarity calls for a positive commitment to safeguarding the fundamental equality and rights of all, and the promotion of their human development. Solidarity coupled with the Church's preferential option for the poor provide the detail needed to understand the full meaning of the common good for Catholic schools. Catholic schools work together rather than competing for students, and together with their Diocesan and national administrations they take care of those schools which are poorer or struggling.

*From "Community and the common good" in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.*

Let's now reflect and pray in silence about the Catholic schools in our area and how we provide an opportunity for all to voice their needs, plans and promotions for the good of all.

Prayer

Let us reflect on the words of Joy Cowley about co-operation rather than competition. Consider the words in the context of schools.



The Human Race

by Joy Cowley

Who was it who said
that competition was a good idea?
Who reckoned it was important'
to be first, best, biggest, richest,
fastest, brightest, top of the class?
Not Jesus that's for sure.
Oh, he had his chance in the desert.

All the temptations given him
were a push for self-promotion.
He turned them down flat.
He knew the secret of happiness
lay in making others happy,
in co-operation rather than competition,
in helping another unwrap her gift,
in listening to a brother's song.

Pursuit of excellence is part of growth
and important in our lives,
but that has got nothing to do
with standing on others
to increase our stature
or leaving others behind
in order to get in front.
Isn't it better to share the pleasures
of all those around us
than to be restricted
to a small world of one?

Because that's the trouble with winning:
it leaves us standing on our own.
In fact, winning can be so lonely,
that it often feels like losing.

From Aotearoa Psalms – Prayers of a new people. Pleroma Press.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ who came to serve.
May we as a Board of Trustees serve Jesus as 'He
deserves to be served' in our relationships, activities and
co-operation with surrounding Catholic schools.
Amen.**

Sign of the Cross.



Participation

Leader:

Sign of the Cross.

'Each person should be able to contribute in full to their community.'

Paraphrase of *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (189)

Scripture

Serve one another (Peter 4:8-11)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the first letter of Peter

"Above all, maintain constant love for one another for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: E Hēhu Karaiti – Jesus Christ

Sometimes we take it for granted that our students can come to school and participate in so many educational opportunities. Help us as a Board to appreciate the opportunities we have helped to provide opportunities for our students to be involved in class, school, sports, community groups and our parishes. Whenever we are in the position to do so, help us to encourage others to participate in these activities also. **Amen.**

Read, reflect, respond to the following statement linked to the Goals, Plans, Policies of your school.

#75 The community of each Catholic school is part of the mission of the Church, an agent of that mission among the people – Catholic and others – who live in the area served by the school. The communal dimension of the life of the school is essential in fostering a commitment to the common good among all involved in the local school community.

#78 When the people of the area support their school it strengthens not just the school community, but the whole ecclesial community of the area.

From "Community and the common good" in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.

All: Kia ĭnoi tātou – Let us pray

May we at ... (name school) respond to Jesus' call to respond with love, compassion and active care.

May we strive to be the presence and sign of the risen Lord in building a community based on love and Gospel values where all people feel welcome to participate.

We pray this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Āmene.



Stewardship

Leader:

Sign of the Cross.

Ka mate te whenua, ka mate te tangata;
ka ora te whenua, ka ora te tangata.
If the land dies, people die; if the land lives,
people live.

The Catholic definition of stewardship is about being concerned for the wellbeing of both the planet and its people, and valuing of life for its own sake. We have to look after the gifts God has given us with an attitude of humility and awe.

Scripture

Creator God (Romans 1:20)

Proclaimer: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

"Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: "Our relationship with the environment can never be separated from our relationship with others and with God."
Laudato Si #119

E te Atua kaha rawa, te Kaihanga o te Ao.

Almighty God, you are the creator of our beautiful world. You made a world that was meant to sustain us with fresh water, land and seas.

We have made some mistakes and been greedy and now there are parts of our world that are under threat from global warming, rising sea levels and pollution.

Help us be sensitive and sacred in walking, watching and wondering as stewards of your creation.

E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā kia matou.
Āmene.

Read, reflect, respond to the statement below linked to your school Policies and Plans.

1. How do we as a Board support our school to look after God's gifts of people, places, things and the preciousness of honouring the time, talent and treasure that our community shares?
2. In the light of this request from our Bishops, how do we intend to schedule a reflection on one of the principles of social justice annually?

#84 Because the Church's social teaching is so integral to the functioning of Catholic schools, individually and as a group, staff and Boards of Trustee members should receive regular training in the principles of Catholic social teaching and their application to their responsibilities.

From "Community and the common good" in The Catholic Education of School-Age Children, NZCBC, 2014.

In the wairua of stewardship as outlined by Pope Francis in *A Christian prayer in union with Creation*, and linking with our land of Aotearoa New Zealand we now pray:

Leader: E te Atua help us to care for the local environment in which we live.

All: Father, we praise you with all your creatures:

They came forth from your all-powerful hand;

they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.

Praise be to you!

Leader: E Hēhu Karaiti help us to support those who are working to protect our environment.



All: Son of God, Jesus
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our
Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human
eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Leader: E te Wairua Tapu help us to restore
the land to health and then the people
will flourish.

All: Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's
love
and accompany creation as it groans in
travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good
Praise be to you!

Leader: Triune Lord,
wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to
everything that is.

All: Amen.

From *Laudato Si'* woven with prayer from
Aotearoa New Zealand.

Sign of the Cross.



10

The sacraments of initiation



“I did the planting, Apollos did the watering,
but God gave the growth.”

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:6

*“Nāku i whakatō, nā Aporo i whakamākūkū,
nā te Atua ia i mea kia tupu.”*

Ko te Tuhituhi Tuatahi a Paora Āpōtoro ki te hunga o Koriniti 3:6



The sacraments of initiation

Year 1

Gathering

Leader: In the 'wairua-spirit' of Paul to the Corinthians "I did the planting, Apollos did the watering, but God gave the growth."

We gather for this Board meeting.

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

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

(A Bishop's appointee blesses all with Holy Water; Student Trustee lights the School candle; Principal places the Bible beside the light and recites the school motto.)

Leader: Growing through, with and in God
Kia ĭnoi tātou – Let us pray

Jesus Emmanuel God-with-us
Be with us in this meeting
Jesus present in people, places and things
Be with us in this meeting
Jesus present to us in Word,
Sacrament, people and priest at Mass
Be with us in this meeting.

Amen.

Preparing the Ground for Planting

Reflect on these prayers for a few moments.

One way we encounter the 'Living God' is in the Sacraments.

How do we as a Board promote:

1. the 'sowing of seeds of possibility' for those in our school not baptised?
2. the watering of the 'seeds of faith' by providing for more frequent and meaningful sacramental opportunities?

3. space, time and inspiration for prayerful opportunities to ask and thank God for the 'growth of faith and encounter with Him' in our school?

Scripture

Parable of the seed (Mark 4:26-32)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark †

All: Glory to you O Lord

He also said, "The kingdom of heaven is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of seeds on the earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

Leader: In this 'spirit of hope' then, let us ponder on the 'seeds of the word' planted in the soil of Catholic education in Aotearoa New Zealand as outlined in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children* section "The goals of the Catholic School".



#15 The faith required for Baptism, either as an infant or an adult, is not a perfect and mature faith. It is a beginning, a seed which needs to be nurtured and developed. (CCC1254) Over time Christian education deepens the faith of the believer, unfolding the “new creation” (*Rite of Baptism*) he or she becomes in Baptism.

1. Name ways your school provides opportunities for nurturing faith, for receiving formation for Baptism and opportunities for reflection on the Sacrament of Baptism.
2. How are those who don't receive Communion because they are not baptised, given encouragement and opportunities to prepare for the sacraments?

Share in small groups and then with the whole Board.

Blessing

Leader: Haere koutou i runga i te rangimārie
Whakakorōriatia te Ariki te āhua o tōu noho
Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life
(GIRM)

**All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua.
Thanks be to God.**

(You may like to pray this in other languages pertinent to your school.)

Year 2

Gathering

Leader: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

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

Scripture

In the wairua-spirit of Paul to the Corinthians, 1 Cor: 3:6 “I did the planting, Apollos did the watering but God gave the growth”, let us pray and reflect on how we as a Board, support our Catholic school to encounter Jesus ‘the living God’ in the sacraments.

#52 “Providing regular opportunities to receive the sacraments is critical as is adequate preparation for their reception. Bringing the sacraments to young people in the schools encourages them to love and appreciate them before they have to start finding them for themselves as adults.”

*From “Facilitating Discipleship” in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.*

Discuss

1. Name ways that your school provides regular opportunities to live, learn about and celebrate an encounter with Jesus in the sacraments?
2. What opportunities for preparing for the sacraments are provided at your school?
3. What links with parish or pastoral area are there? If not provided, why not? If provided what is notable?

Share in small groups and then as a Board.

Concluding prayer

Together we pray

May we go out from this meeting to plant seeds of God's Word in the soil of our Catholic school;

May we go out from this meeting to encourage our community to water the Faith of our students;

May we go out from this meeting to grow in our encounter with Jesus in the sacraments;

May we enable, encourage and empower members of our school community to prepare for and receive the Sacraments of Initiation and so, we pray together.

"Glory be to God whose power working within us can do more than we can ever ask or imagine." (Eph 3:21)

Blessing

Leader: Haere koutou i runga i te rangimārie.
Whakakorōriatia te Ariki te āhua o tōu noho.
Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life.

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua
Thanks be to God.

(You may like to pray this in other languages pertinent to your school.)

11

Charisms of founding religious orders



“The spirit of the Lord is upon me
because he has appointed me to bring
glad tidings to the poor.” Luke 4:18-19

*“Kei ahau te Wairua o te Ariki
Nāna nei hoki ahau i te whakawahi,
Hei kauwhau i te rongopai ki te hunga rawakore.” Ruka 4:18-19*



Catholic Schools in Aotearoa New Zealand: A selection of symbols of some founding orders



'The spirit of the Lord is upon me
because he has appointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and
recovery of sight to the blind
to let the oppressed go free' and to
proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

Luke 4:18 -19



VERITAS



Kei ahau te Wairua o te Ariki
Nāna nei hoki ahau i te whakawahi,
Hei kauwhau i te rongopai ki te hunga rawakore.
Kua tonoa ahau e ia ki te kauwhau ki ngā herehere, kia
haere noa,
Ki ngā matapō kia titiro;
Ki te tuku i te hunga e marū ana, kia haere noa atu,
Ki te kauwhau i te tau manakohanga mai a te Ariki.

Ruka 4:18-19





Charisms of founding religious orders

YEAR 1

Leader: A Charism is:

a gift of the Spirit

given to persons

and taken up by a group

to carry out the mission of Jesus,

having characteristics in the way of being and serving

which mirror a particular experience of God's presence in our world.

Attributed to Mary Cresp rsj

(Before you begin, light a candle and place next to name/symbol of Founding Order/School crest/motto/Crucifix.)

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

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

In silence read and reflect on the following statement.

#54 A school for young Catholics is first and foremost Catholic. It may have a particular charism derived from its founding religious order or its history. That charism will rightly play an important part in shaping the school's particular identity. It must be remembered however that the charism is not the totality of the school's identity. Rather it is a lens through which the school's Catholicity should be seen. The charism must highlight in every way the school's Catholic identity, and not relegate it to a secondary place.

*From "Facilitating Discipleship" in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014.*

Leader: In the 'wairua' of the ancestors of family, Catholic church and community whānau we link whenua, tangata and Atua as we listen to the 'seeds of the Word' from the Gospel of Matthew which inspired those who founded our Catholic schools in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Scripture

Commissioning the disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew †

All: Glory to you O Lord

"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflect on the following questions linked with the above #54 "Facilitating Discipleship".

1. How is the charism of our Catholic school's Founding Order a pathway or 'lens' for "Walking the Way of Jesus Christ, telling the Truth of Jesus Christ, and living the Life of Jesus Christ"?
2. How is this made real in areas like our Catholic school mission statement/school motto/school song/liturgies/prayer/celebrations/policies/discipline?
3. Is it obvious in the name/telephone greeting that this is a Catholic school?



Concluding prayer

**All: In thanksgiving we pray together
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Leader: Haere koutou, pānuitia te Rongopai a te Ariki – Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua – Thanks be to God.

YEAR 2

Leader:

Sign of the Cross.

Prayer of thanksgiving

“I thank my God every time I remember you ...” Phil 1:3

In thanksgiving for all who have had the opportunity of being gifted with the taonga-treasure of a Catholic education, we honour the past, celebrate the present and look forward in hope to the future for the children of our Catholic schools. Let us pray using the words of Joy Cowley.

To My Children

(pause in between each line)

Stretch high,
reach wide,
feel deep,
give big,
think love,
love life,
stay open,
see beauty,
taste God.

We now reflect further on the role of charisms of Founding Religious Orders from the NZCBC document.

#55 In the same way a school’s focus on the saint of its name or founding religious congregation should not obscure the primacy of the relationship with Jesus Christ which it is the school’s duty to foster.

From “Facilitating Discipleship” in The Catholic Education of School-Age Children, NZCBC, 2014.

How do we remember to ‘action’ this in our Catholic school?

How do we link our Founder as a model and inspiration of walking in the ways of Jesus Christ the ‘living God’?

Let’s now pray in the spirit of our Founding Order the Scriptural statement on the focus (page 58).



Scripture

Jesus speaks in the synagogue

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke † (Luke 4:18-19)

All: Glory to you O Lord

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has appointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Leader: In re-mem-bering the spirit-filled men and women who evangelised and catechised in our Catholic schools in the name of Jesus Christ, let us be thankful. May all of us in Catholic schools in Aotearoa New Zealand continue to pray in thanksgiving for the gift we have been given by the Religious Orders that founded our Catholic schools.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for founding orders

Leader: For all holy women and men who answered the call to share the message of the Gospel in Aotearoa New Zealand ... so that we as a Catholic school may continue to

All: "Walk the Way of Jesus Christ, Tell the Truth of Jesus Christ and Live the Life of Jesus Christ."

Leader: For all holy men and women whose Religious Orders were foundational to the beginnings of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, so that we as a Catholic school may continue to

All: "Walk the Way of Jesus Christ, Tell the Truth of Jesus Christ and Live the Life of Jesus Christ."

Leader: For all holy women and men from Catholic Parishes and communities whose dedication to teaching and learning inspired others in education, so that we as a Catholic school may continue to

All: "Walk the Way of Jesus Christ, Tell the Truth of Jesus Christ and Live the Life of Jesus Christ."

Leader: For all holy men and women who helped establish Catholic schools in Aotearoa New Zealand so that we as a Catholic school may continue to

All: "Walk the Way of Jesus Christ, Tell the Truth of Jesus Christ and Live the Life of Jesus Christ."

Leader: For the holy women and men who were an important part of the Founding Order(s) of our school ... (name) so that we as a Catholic school may continue to

All: "Walk the Way of Jesus Christ, Tell the Truth of Jesus Christ and Live the Life of Jesus Christ."

Leader: Haere koutou, pānuitia te Rongopai a te Ariki – Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua – Thanks be to God.

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

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

(You may like to invite others to pray this in the language of their cultures.)

12

Endings and beginnings: Advent



“Prepare the way for the
coming of the Lord” Isaiah 40:3

*“Whakapaia e koutou i te koraha
te huarahi o te Ariki” Ihāia 40:3*



Endings and beginnings: Advent

YEAR 1 AND 2

(Prepare the Advent wreath with four candles to be lit at the prayer.)

Leader: As we come to the end of another year let us reflect in silence on these statements which encompass the Mission of a Catholic School.

#46 The key components of the Catholic character of a school include:

- the people who facilitate the encounter with Christ and accompany the young disciple on the resulting journey (Catholic educators)
- the catechetical response to the young disciples need for knowledge (Religious Education programme)
- formation which leads to growth in Catholic virtues and values and where appropriate
- the living of the particular charism of the school, usually derived from the Founding Religious Order
- the lived common good approach
- witness of the wider faith community within which the school is situated, usually a parish or parishes.

*From "Values and Virtues" in *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, NZCBC, 2014, based on #46.*

In consideration of our Annual Goals let us reflect on the above areas. *(Share in groups and then together.)*

In the spirit of Advent we gather and consider these lines from sacred scripture

"And a little child shall lead them"

"Prepare the way for the coming of God"

"O come, o come Emmanuel"

"Come Lord Jesus, come and be born in our hearts."

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

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

During the four weeks of the Advent leading to Christmas we in our Catholic schools, parishes and dioceses have, along with the Advent colours, hangings, calendars, Jesse tree, the wonder-filled symbol of the Advent wreath.

Because we won't be here at meetings for all the weeks in Advent, we will light all four of the candles on the Advent wreath now and in the 'light' of thanksgiving for our journey together.

Each of the four candles represents one of the areas we use for reviewing our Catholic character, sentiments of which are echoed in the Catholic character section of the NZCBC document outlined above and which we have fostered during this school year.

(Choose leaders for each of the five prayers below.)

Leader 1: For the pastoral care, living values and virtues experienced in our school, parish and community.

All: In thanksgiving we light a candle and pray together

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2)

Leader 2: For our Religious Education programme and our Catholic educators who promote knowledge, skills and Christ-like encounter on the faith journey with our school helping all to experience Jesus in living, learning and loving.



All: In thanksgiving we light a candle and pray together

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

Leader 3: For our Catholic Community and for those whose 'shoulders we stand on in faith especially (name founding order) for gifting us with their charism which enables us to experience Jesus as our Way, our Truth and our Life.

All: In thanksgiving we light a candle and pray together

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

Leader 4: For the documents, policies, and plans which guide, enlighten, empower endorse and give our Catholic character, stature, meaning and credence.

All: In thanksgiving we light a candle and pray together

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light

Leader 5: Jesus, Emmanuel – God with us, we pray in thanksgiving that we at (name school) ... this year, have been a people who at times have walked in darkness but with your presence have seen a great light. We thank you for this year and we look forward in hope to celebrating anew your light shining on us brightly this Christmas season. May we share your light with others. **Amen.**

Concluding prayer

Leader: Let us pray, kia Īnoi tātou.

In the spirit-wairua of the star which lead people to Jesus and which serves as a reminder in leading us and our Catholic school to Jesus today. We pray for ourselves, our families and our school community in the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you
(60:10)

Leader:

Haere koutou i runga i te rangimārie,
Whakakorōriatia te Ariki
te āhua o tōu noho.

Go in peace
Glorifying the Lord
by your life.

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua
Thanks be to God



Pick & Mix



1.1 Beginning of the year – annual commissioning prayer reflection for Boards of Trustees

(For use at the beginning of the year or when new members are commissioned. Note: Whenever the Gospel is read you will see there is a symbol † which represents making a cross on the forehead, lips and heart, mirroring the action used in the Mass before the Gospel is read.)

Background

In Term 4 when Boards reflect on their School's Charter and Mission Statement and decide on Annual Plan and Goals, it is an opportune time to reflect on any Diocesan Guidelines/Resources plus the national *Code of Ethics for Staff and Boards of New Zealand Catholic Schools*.

See Appendix 9 p 77 & 78 of *CEO'S Handbook for Boards of Trustees, Principals and Staff of New Zealand Catholic Integrated Schools*.

This Code of Ethics could then be circulated with other Board papers at the beginning of the next school year. This Code of Ethics or an appropriate Diocesan resource would then form the basis for Board members to renew their commitment as Trustees.

Beginning of the school year commissioning prayer for Boards in Catholic schools

(Copies for everyone given out at the beginning of the Commissioning as well as the Code of Ethics distributed with the Board papers before the meeting.)

Focus: School Banner/Motto/Candle surrounded by tea lights (to be lit during the prayer) School Charter, copy of the Code of Ethics, School Mission Statement for each member.

The commissioning prayer begins with a quote from *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children* section, Bishops' Foreword p 2.

Leader: 'Every member of our parish and school faith communities has the wondrous task of bringing Christ's good news to those whom we are privileged to serve. All the more joyful is this duty when it is our young people with whom we share the love of Jesus and the mission of his Church.'

In the love of Jesus and as part of the mission of His Church we gather

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

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

Leader: At the beginning of this School Year we reflect on the Commissioning of Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry.

Scripture

*Jesus speaks in the synagogue
(Luke 4: 16 -19)*

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke †

When he came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day as was his custom. He stood up to read and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written:

'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Silent reflection

Leader: In the spirit-wairua of this Gospel let's reflect on how, in the light of our School Mission statement and our commitment to our school community, we as a Board for (school name) need the Spirit of the Lord to be upon us during this year of ...

(Arrange beforehand for different members to lead the following six prayers.)

Prayer

Leader 1: We light a candle and pray. *(Pause)*
May we, as a Board of a Catholic School be blessed as Jesus was in the Gospel of Luke.
May the Spirit of the Lord be upon us a Board because He has anointed us to bring Good News to our community as we strive to safeguard and strengthen the Catholic identity of our school. In trust we pray.

Response: Spirit of the Living God be with us

Leader 2: We light a candle and pray. *(Pause)*
May we as a Board of a Catholic School have the strength of conviction and confidence in our Mission Statement.
May the Spirit of the Lord be upon us, to empower us to be wise in the choices and decisions we make in our meetings, policies and plans.
In trust we pray.

Response: Spirit of the Living God be with us

Leader 3: We light a candle and pray. *(Pause)*
May we as a Board of a Catholic School be caring in all our relationships and compassionate to those in need.
May the Spirit of the Lord be upon us to guide us to act in the cause of the 'common good' and be of comfort and consolation to those in need.
In trust we pray.

Response: Spirit of the Living God be with us

Leader 4: We light a candle and pray. *(Pause)*
May we as a Board of a Catholic School be inspired to meet all our challenges with clear minds and justice-centred hearts.

May the Spirit of the Lord be upon us to inspire us with clarity and boldness to stand up and speak the truth with love and be 'signs of contradiction' in a secular world.

In trust we pray.

Response: Spirit of the Living God be with us

Leader 5: We light a candle and pray. *(Pause)*
May we as a Board of a Catholic School be true and faithful to 'living out' what our Mission statement contains with integrity.
May the Spirit of the Lord be upon us to guide us with gifts of Right Judgement, Wisdom and Discernment.
In trust we pray.

Response: Spirit of the Living God be with us

Leader 6: We light a candle and pray. *(Pause)*
May we as a Board in a Catholic School be guided by Gospel values especially those of (school name) that our school is focusing on this year.
May we walk in the ways of Jesus Christ, tell the truth of Jesus Christ and live the life of Jesus Christ.
In trust we pray.

Response: Spirit of the Living God be with us

Together as one let us all recite our School's Mission Statement.

Blessing

Leader: Haere koutou, pānuitia Te Rongo Pai a te Ariki.
Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua. Āmene.
Thanks be to God. Amen.



1.2 Prayers for Lent

You may like to circulate a selection of these prayers around the Board table for various people to pray.

Selection of adapted Lectionary prayers for Lent

Come back to the Lord with all your heart
leave the past in ashes
and turn to God with tears and fasting
for he is slow to anger and ready to forgive.

Lord, may everything we do
begin with your inspiration
continue with your help
and reach perfection under your guidance.

Lord during this Lenten season
nourish us with your word of life
and make us one in love and praise.

Psalm 25

Lord make me know your ways
Lord teach me your paths
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me
for you are God my saviour.

Selection of Lenten Gospel acclamations

Create a clean heart in me O God give back to me the joy of your salvation (Ps 50)

If today you hear God's voice
harden not your hearts (Ps 94)

With all your heart turn to me for I am tender and compassionate (Joel 2: 12,13)

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance (Luke 8:15)

(The following is often the Gospel for the First Week of Lent)

Scripture

Temptations of Jesus (Luke 4:1-4)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke †

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "if you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread". But Jesus answered him, 'It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone'."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection based on the Temptations of Jesus

Turn these Stones into Bread
By James B Lyons

Turn these stones to bread
Turn the famine to feast
Turn the night to day

Turn your hurt to healing
Turn your shame to sorrow
Turn your hate to love
Turn your life around

Take the hardness from your heart
Take the speck from your eye
Take the anger from your words
Turn these stones to bread.



Some penitential prayers

Leader: Jesus, your living, giving power is a source of healing and acceptance for those who are refugees.

All: Lord have mercy

Christ Jesus, you who knew the power of rising above and beyond the pain of being marginalised.

All: Christ have mercy

Jesus, our model for welcoming others and being an instrument of your life-giving energy.

All: Lord have mercy

Blessing

Leader: May we open our hearts of 'selfish stone' to becoming 'generous bread' in our Lenten sharing with people in need, together with the 'Body of Christ' in various parts of the world being supported by our school during this season.

May we honour the tapu and mana of each other and those we serve, by following in the footsteps of Jesus our way, our truth and our life.

All: Amen.

Reflection based on the Parable of the Lost Son / The Forgiving Father

Rid the Famine

by James B Lyons

The distance between is so vast
It can never be spanned
By the anger that drove us apart
The gap is famine land.

The distance between us need not remain
When we measure the hurt
Against the nothing that's been gained
And the hunger and thirst.

Come together with a change of heart
Step closer with an aching heart
Quicken your pace with an understanding heart
Rid the famine with a forgiving heart.

Amen.



2.1 On the Road

by Joy Cowley

Please, slow down
and walk with me.
Be my companion
for a mile or two
and tell me your story,
for I have much to learn
and every pilgrim's story
enhances my own.
Speak to me of yearnings
beyond people and things
and show me the learning
of your heart like a compass
towards true north.
It does not matter
that we borrow
from different books
or use different words
to describe the journey.
We are on the same path
whatever shoes we wear.

From Psalms for the Road. Pleroma Press.

Blessing

God of Journey, bless us as your Board 'on the road together' journeying with the community of our Catholic school. Walk with us, work with us, wonder with us, as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus our Emmaus companion, powered by the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



3.1 Scripture cards

The cards on the following pages combine an excerpt from *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, with an accompanying scripture.

To use the cards:

- Photocopy on card or laminate. You can download a pdf from the TCI website.
- Circulate around board.
- Read silently.
- Share in pairs.
- Each read/pray a key phrase back to the whole board.
- At the end of the board sharing make the Sign of the Cross together.

1.

Catholic Character #41

'Maintaining an authentic Catholic identity in schools is an unending work. It requires constant initiative, both creative and traditional, if such an identity is going to enter into the ... school community...
'Safe guarding and strengthening" are perhaps better terms than "maintaining" to describe the constant vigilance that is needed in relation to Catholic identity.'

"Do you not realise that you are a temple of God with the Spirit of God living in you."

1 Cor 3:165

2.

Catholic Educators #47

'At the heart of the Catholic character of a school are the Catholic hearts of those who work in the school...
They are witnesses to the students of a mature faith, and an integration of faith with life'.

"For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without murmuring or arguing."

Phil 2:13

3.

Catholic Education of School-Age Children. Introduction (adapted)

Encounter with Jesus is at the centre of Catholic Education. It places our schools at the heart of every Parish or Pastoral Area's evangelising mission.

"You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

Acts 2:38

4.

The Nature of Catholic Schools #6

'The Catholic School is embedded in the Church; it is the Church in action, an authentic expression of the Church's mission.'

"Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine. To him be glory in the Church and in Christ."

Ephesians 3:20

5.

The Nature of a Catholic School #8(a)

'All schools are a means of passing on culture to new generations.'

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

6.

The nature of a Catholic School #8(b)

'The Catholic school's task is fundamentally a synthesis of culture and faith and a synthesis of faith and life: the first is reached by integrating all the different aspects of human knowledge through the subjects taught, in the light of the Gospel; the second in the growth of virtues characteristic of the Christian.'

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it is grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Matt 13: 31-32

7.

The Goals of a Catholic School #15

"The faith required for Baptism ... is a beginning, a seed which needs to be nurtured and developed."

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think they will be heard because of their many words."

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then in this way:

"Our Father in heaven ..."

Matt 6:7-9

8.

Facilitating Discipleship #52

'Teaching students to pray in different ways and providing well-prepared opportunities for them to do so is essential. For many students this is the only time in their lives someone will assist them with prayer.'

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Acts 2:42

9.

Facilitating Discipleship #52

'Providing regular opportunities to receive the sacraments is critical...'

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Acts 2:42

10.

The Goals of a Catholic School #11

'Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others.'

"To the weak I became weak so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the Gospel so that I may share in its blessings."

1 Cor 9:22-23

11.

Facilitating Discipleship #53

'A school Mass is an opportunity for building community, but the emphasis on school spirit should not be at the expense of the meaning of the Mass and the reception of Jesus in the Eucharist who, through the Holy Spirit, is the source of every charism.'

"For I have received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

1 Cor 11:23-26

12

The Nature of a Catholic School #10

'As well as providing education in the faith in the home, parents have a right to choose how their children are educated outside the home. In assisting parents with their obligations to their children the Catholic school makes the Church as 'mother and teacher' a practical reality.'

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory he may grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love."

Ephesians 3:14-17



4.1 Prayers for reconciliation

Based on the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25)

(The Fruits of the Holy Spirit Prayer cards on page 77 may be used as a focus)

Prayers for fronting up, forgiving, forgetting, freeing up and moving forward

As we prepare ourselves to ask God for forgiveness and strength in our lives let us reflect on how we witness to the fruits of the Holy Spirit-Te Wairua Tapu.

God loves us in our faults and failings, no matter what and so we pray in confidence:

Leader: Creator God we recognise that we are not as fruitful as we could be

Our response is: Forgive us Lord Jesus

1. Forgive us when we fail to tend the fruit of the Spirit and water them with prayer.

Forgive us Lord Jesus

All: Forgive us Lord Jesus

2. Forgive us when we stop the warmth of love that enables the fruit of joy and hope to open.

Forgive us Lord Jesus

All: Forgive us Lord Jesus

3. Forgive us for the times when fear causes us to be angry, jealous and secretive.

Forgive us Lord Jesus

All: Forgive us Lord Jesus

4. Forgive us for the times when we have kept things for ourselves rather than sharing them with others.

Forgive us Lord Jesus

All: Forgive us Lord Jesus

5. Forgive us when we have been selfish and snappy rather than kind and gentle.

Forgive us Lord Jesus

All: Forgive us Lord Jesus

6. Forgive us when we haven't shared the fruits of your Holy Spirit

Forgive us Lord Jesus

All: Forgive us Lord Jesus

Leader: Come Lord Jesus, feed our hearts with your Love and bring to fruit in us your joy and your faithful, generous, kindness. Amen.

Concluding Prayer and Blessing

Let us now pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us **"Our Father..."**

Blessing

Creator God,

Thank You for giving us the gift of your Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us.

May we show and share more fully the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

May the stories of Jesus' life help us to:
Be like Jesus, speak like Jesus and act like Jesus. Amen.

(Offering a sign of peace to each may be appropriate at this point.)

Leader: Let us go in the peace and forgiveness of Christ Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.



4.2 Prayer Cards for the fruits of the Holy Spirit-Te Wairua Tapu

Suggestions for use

Linked with *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, 2014, from the section "The goals of the Catholic School".

#12 First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.

Pope Benedict XVI address to Catholic Educators of the United States in 2008.

1. Everyone takes a card and shares with another what it means to them.
2. Share together where this 'Fruit of the Holy Spirit' is needed in the Board and in the school community.
3. Those who have shared together decide what they are going to pray for.
4. Follow by a Board 'round the table' short prayer such as "We pray for more patience for us as a Board" or "We pray for a sense of generosity from all the school community on this ... (World Mission Day or special intention) and for all in need."
5. As each prayer is prayed, place the prayer card around the prayer candle or Bible on the table.
6. You can download these cards from www.tci.ac.nz/bot-resource/





5.1 Beatitude prayer cards

Suggestions for use of the Beatitudes prayer cards

Print out the cards on the following two pages onto card then cut out. Circulate the prayer cards around the Board table and invite members to pray out loud what is on the prayer card, with everyone responding at the end.

Reader: Lord hear us ... **All:** Lord hear our prayer

"The Bridge" by Joy Cowley from *Aotearoa Psalms* (Pleroma Press) works effectively with this activity.

Blessed are
those who
choose wise
words in
controversial
discussion

BLESSED ARE
THOSE WHO
TRUST THAT
FOR BOARDS
JESUS IS THE
WAY, THE
TRUTH AND
THE LIFE

BLESSED ARE
THOSE WHO
AT BOARD
MEETINGS
SPEAK
QUIETLY
WITH
CONVICTION

Blessed are those
who are open to
all possibilities
for they shall be
encompass the
wairua-spirit of
God who 'makes
all things possible'
through Him, with
Him and in Him.

*Blessed are
those who can
get to the heart
of the matter
with calm
consideration*

*Blessed
are those
who record,
unscramble
and make
sense of Board
Minutes*

**Blessed are
those who
walk with
others in the
'footsteps of
Jesus'**

Blessed are
those who
problem
solve with the
conviction of
Jesus' Gospel
values

Blessed are
those who
safeguard the
sacredness of
whenua-land
and tangata-
people

**BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO SHARE THE
GLORY OF GOD,
NOT GOSSIP**

Blessed are
those who greet
each meeting
with a fresh
approach

**Blessed are
those who
go to extra
meetings with
a calm and
generous
heart**

**Blessed are
those who
believe in
possibilities
even if the
odds are
against them**

**Blessed are
those who
welcome and
serve guests
at meetings
with
a smile**



6.1 Blessing

By Joy Cowley

May the mystery of God enfold us.
May the wisdom of God uphold us.
May the fragrance of God be around us.
May the brightness of God surround us.
May the wonder of God renew us.
May the loving of God flow through us.
May the peace of God deeply move us.
May the moving of God bring us peace.

From Psalms down-under. Pleroma Press.



7.1 From “Honest to Goodness”

By Joy Cowley

“When we eat this Bread
and drink this Cup,
We proclaim Your Death, O Lord
until you come again.”

O Lord, your Life and Death and Life
are in all creation, and never so present
as in this sacred moment of communion.
You stretched out your arms to embrace us,
to show us that death is not the end
but the beginning of life with you.

You come again. Oh Yes!
And again and again and again,
as often as we are able to receive you.
The truth is that these simple elements
of bread and wine from the earth,
are now resurrections without end.
How do we respond to such a giving?
The very air that we breathe
is made holy with our gratitude.

From Honest to goodness: Personal reflections on the Liturgy.
Joy Cowley. Pleroma Press



8.1 References for the Common Good

From *The Catholic Education of School-Age Children*, New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, 2014.

- #74 Each Catholic school is a community within the larger community of the diocese and the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand. The community dimension of a Catholic school embraces students, parents, teachers, priests and benefactors, and is “not a merely sociological category; it has a theological foundation as well.”

Human Dignity

“From the outset the Catholic school declares its programme and its determination to uphold it. It is a genuine community bent on imparting, over and above an academic education, all the help it can to its members to adopt a Christian way of life. For the Catholic school mutual respect means service to the Person of Christ. Cooperation is between brothers and sisters in Christ. A policy of working for the common good is undertaken seriously as working for the building up of the Kingdom of God.” Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School* 60

Human Dignity

- #79 Cooperation, not competition, should characterise the relationships between neighbouring Catholic schools, with the good of all being paramount. If one school is attracting students from outside its area in numbers, it potentially weakens the surrounding schools. In such circumstances an enrolment scheme is not just a device to manage numbers but a means of supporting neighbouring schools, an act which fosters the common good.

Common good

- #80 In a situation where a Catholic school is losing its local students to another Catholic school, the appropriate authorities must ensure that the school is supported in addressing the issues it faces in retaining its local students. Student movement away from the local area to attend school can both be a cause and a consequence of social polarisation and ethnic segregation. As poorer families do not have the resources to send their children anywhere other than the closest school, it is of vital importance that Catholic schools serving poorer communities are of the highest standard educationally and that they find ways of compensating for the poverty of their families, if necessary, with the help of other Catholic schools or communities.

Protection of the poor and vulnerable

- #82 For Catholic schools subsidiarity needs to be balanced by the principle of solidarity. Solidarity calls for a positive commitment to safeguarding the fundamental equality and rights of all, and the promotion of their human development. Solidarity coupled with the Church’s preferential option for the poor provide the detail needed to understand the full meaning of the common good for Catholic schools. Catholic schools work together rather than competing for students, and together with their diocesan and national administrations they take care of those schools which are poorer and struggling.

Solidarity and Subsidiarity



#83 A Catholic school is unique in being able to use the Church's social teaching principles not just in relationship to other schools, but also a framework for its own organisation and ethos. Human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity, participation, and the preferential option for the poor can all be used as guiding principles for the way the school operates. They can be taught to students as the guiding principles in their relationships with one another and their participation in the life of the school. Students experiencing a community which operates according to these principles will naturally come to see justice as an integral component of their faith.

All social teaching principles

#84 Because the Church's social teaching is so integral to the functioning of Catholic schools, individually and as a group, staff and Boards of Trustee members should receive regular training in the principles of Catholic social teaching and their application to their responsibilities. Without this understanding the dedication of enthusiastic staff and trustees to their individual school may drive the school into a competitive and insular ethos, not recognising that each Catholic school has responsibilities to others.

Stewardship, Solidarity

#92 The government contributes funds to ensure that parents can have access to a Catholic education for their children, and the Integration Act makes it clear that a family's financial situation should not be a barrier to access an integrated school. The wishes of the state concur with our desire and that of our predecessors – from Bishop Pompallier onwards – that financial means should not determine entry to a Catholic school. Canon law gives us the responsibility of ensuring that fees and charges imposed by the proprietors of Catholic school do not act as a barrier for families in accessing a Catholic education.

*Protection of the poor and vulnerable,
Stewardship*

#102 Because of the Church's commitment to those who might be marginalised and those who face difficulties in learning, the Catholic Character review process should look more deeply and incisively into the provisions which Catholic schools make for students with learning difficulties and special needs.

Protection of the poor and vulnerable

Other references include #75 to #78, #87 and #91.



9.1 A peace blessing

May Peace be within us
May Peace be around us
May Peace be beside us
May Peace be between us.
May we walk peacefully on our journey.
May Peace fill our days and nights.
May Peace fill the earth.

Amen.

9.2 An alternative prayer and general reflection for the common good

Scripture

Parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7)

Proclaimer: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke †

Now all the tax collectors and sinner were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and scribes were grumbling and saying "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one who is lost until he finds it? When he has found it he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Some Definitions

(Read silently the following.)

In connection with the parable of the shepherd who left ninety-nine to go and look for one missing sheep it can be useful to consider some of the terms that are confused with the principle of the common good. Using the images in this parable the following are helpful:

Common Good – the common good of the flock is not secured until one hundred sheep are found and are safe.

Greater Good – the missing sheep is sacrificed for the wellbeing of the ninety-nine.

Public Interest – the ninety-nine sheep want a say in what happens to the missing sheep.

Public or Social Goods – while there is agreement that sheep safety is important, there are many different arguments about whether this means protecting the safe ninety-nine or the missing one.

Quick discussion

Leader:

1. Considering the values of this Gospel how do these terms connect with in issues, policies and decisions we as a Board have been called to consider?
2. What areas have we applied the definitions listed above in the name of the common good to? For example, pastoral area issues, roll numbers/re - capitation policies, goals, enrolment, staffing, Catholic character ...

A Litany for the Common Good

Leader:

For The Common Good – Hei painga mō te Katoa of home, school, parish

All: Come Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu help us

For what is good for us all at ... (name school)

All: Come Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu enlighten us

For the general welfare of our country of Aotearoa New Zealand

All: Come Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu connect us

For the benefit of the community our school is part of

All: Come Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu inspire us

For the good of our Parish, our Diocese and the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand

All: Come Holy Spirit – e te Wairua Tapu unite us in our endeavours.

In the 'wairua' of the common good – hei painga mō te katoa, may we act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.

Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Haere koutou i runga i te rangimārie
Go in peace

All: Whakamoemiti ki te Atua Thanks be to God

Waiata

Te Aroha

Te aroha	Love
Te whakapono	Faith
Me te rangimārie	Peace
Tātou, tātou e.	For us all.



10.1 Faith

By James B Lyons

Sometime someone believed
enough to plant and to
build.

Others agreed and shared
and spread the seeds of
faith.

Vision and pride marked out
a space and said here will
grow our faith.

But faith persists beyond all
Space and knows no bonds
or bounds.

10.2 From *Laudato Si'* by Pope Francis

#235 'The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. Through our worship of God, we are invited to embrace the world on a different plane. Water, oil, fire and colours are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated in our act of praise. The hand that blesses is an instrument of God's love and a reflection of the closeness of Jesus Christ, who came to accompany us on the journey of life. Water poured over the body of a child in Baptism is a sign of new life. Encountering God does not mean fleeing from this world or turning our back on nature...

For Christians, all the creatures of the material universe find their true meaning in the incarnate Word, for the Son of God has incorporated in his person part of the material world, planting in it a seed of definitive transformation.'



11.1 Litany of Thanks for the Communion of Saints/saints

Leader:

For Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Saint Peter Chanel

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Saint Teresa of Ávila

Saint Patrick

Saints Peter & Paul

Saint Francis

Saint Clare

Suzanne Aubert

Bishop Pompallier

Te Kahurangi Dame Whina Cooper

All respond:

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

**We praise You, we bless You,
we thank You**

Add Saints/saints pertinent to your school and to Aotearoa New Zealand.



12.1 Prayers for Advent

Joy, justice and ginger

Advent
Arrival
we wait for the flavours and focus
of Christ – coming –
peacefulness and joy
justice – making, love
and red-wrapped boxes of ginger.

Advent
Arrival
We wait for the silent feet
of camels
and the clatter of Kaimanawa horses
startled on the Desert Road
of summer holidays

Advent
Arrival
We wait for the gate to open
urging us
to step into the story
and the mystery that calms and troubles the
world.

Anne Powell from *Firesong*

Horizons

Morning Star
Let there be light
Between the leaves
Let there be light
Children's faces
Let there be light
On the horizon
Let there be light.
Arc of rainbow
Let there be light
Candle at the window
Let there be light

Anne Powell from *Firesong*

Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his
paths:
all people shall see the salvation of the Lord.

Scripture

Benedictus

From 'The Benedictus' Luke 1: 76-79

... And you little child
you shall be called the Prophet of the Most High
for you will go before the Lord
to prepare a way for him.
To give his people knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins
this by the tender mercy of our God
who from on high will bring the rising sun to
visit us,
to give light to those who live
in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.

The image features a solid teal background with a fine, woven texture. Centered on the page is a large, dark teal circle. Inside this circle, the word "Prayers" is written in a white, elegant serif font.

Prayers



A Selection of traditional Catholic prayers

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women and blessed is
the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our
death.
Amen.

Awe e Maria, e kī ana koe i te keratia. Kei a koe
te Ariki.
E whakapaingia ana koe i roto i ngā wāhine,
ā, e whakapaingia ana hoki a Hēhu, te hua o
tōu kōpū.
E Hāta Maria, e te matua wahine o te Atua,
īnoi koe mō mātou,
mō te hunga hara, āiane, ā, a te haora o to
mātou matenga.
Āmene.

The Sign of the Cross

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te
Wairua Tapu. Āmene.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
*(You may like to pray the Sign of the Cross in
languages appropriate to your school)*

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever
shall be
world without end. Amen.

Korōria ki te Matua, ki te Tamaiti, ki te Wairua
Tapu;
he pērā hoki i te timatanga, ā, he pērā anō
ināiane, ā, he pērā tonu,
ā, ake, ake. Āmene

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Ko Te Patere

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi, kia whakatapua
tōu ingoa, kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga,
kia whakaritea tōu hiahia i te whenua, kia
pērā anō i tō te rangi. Homai ki a mātou
āiane he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.
Whakakahoretia ō mātou hara me mātou e
whakakore nei i ngā hara o te hunga e hara
ana ki a mātou. Kaua mātou e tukua kia
whakawaia, engari whakaorangia mātou i te
kino.

Grace before a Meal

Bless this food, O Lord. Bless those who
prepared it and
please give food to the hungry. We ask this
through
Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mō mua i te Kai
E tōku Atua, whakapainga mātou me ēnei kai
kua
homai e koe kia ora ai mātou. Mā tō mātou
Ariki a
Hēhu Karaiti. Āmene.



Prayers linked to Catholic character

(The following two prayers are from the Auckland Catholic Education Office.)

Prayer for bringing the Charism of Founding Religious Orders to life in our schools today

God of Compassion, we pray for the people in our school communities in the Diocese of ...
(name diocese)

As we look to the future, we place before You the life of the Church in our area. Fill us with zeal to live out the Gospel and give us the grace to step out into the unknown.

May we be open to Your guidance as we reflect on the Charism and Spirituality of each of our school communities handed down to us from our Founding Congregations. May your Holy Spirit inspire us to know our gifts to use them in Jesus' name for the service of His Church.

May our school communities always be places where we encounter the Living God in Jesus Christ.

May our schools be places of faith, hope and love.

We ask this in the spirit of the evangelising mission of Jesus who is our Way our Truth and our Life. Amen.

Called to serve in Catholic education

We thank You God and we praise You for calling us to the special ministry of sharing in the mission of Catholic Education.

We thank You, God and we praise You for guiding us and lighting the path of unknown ways,
for placing confidence in us,

for challenging us to freedom,
for teaching us not to be afraid,
for forgiving us, and showing us how to forgive others,
for calling us to build a community of love.

We thank You, God and we praise You for the challenges and the decisions,
for all those who stood beside us,
for all who have gone before us to preach and prepare the way.

We thank You God and we praise You, You have blessed us with many gifts,
continue to shower Your blessings upon us,
allow us to know Your transforming power so that in being renewed ourselves we might continue to be ministers of Your grace
in our families and in our school communities.
May all who share in this Ministry of Catholic Education in our Diocese be one of mind in our mission
work side by side in ministry,
walk hand in hand through our ups and downs.
May all our efforts build up Your kingdom where You live with Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen.



Prayers for discernment, disciplinary consultation, public media communication

Unless otherwise stated, all prayers from this point were created by Elizabeth Wootton.

Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu

1. For your guidance with the choices we have to consider and choices we have to make

All: Come Holy Spirit guide us, enlighten us.

2. For gifts of endurance, perseverance and understanding particularly when there is division, discontent and difficult problem-solving which will have an impact on the future.

All: Come Holy Spirit heal us, strengthen us, unite us.

3. For clarity and conviction about the right path to take when we are unsure, hesitant and questioning

All: Come Holy Spirit enlighten us, encourage us, inspire us.

4. For an open mind to the discernment process, knowing that you are with us through it all

All: Come Holy Spirit reassure us, companion us, entrust to your care.

5. For assurance and conviction that your presence with us will bring us calm and peace that "all will be well"

All: Come Holy Spirit calm us, restore us and give us your peace.

6. For the grace to surrender our ideas and plans to your guidance and direction. Help us to read the 'signs of the times' and do your will

All: Come Holy Spirit guide us, direct us, give us confidence and conviction.

Prayer before a student disciplinary meeting

In the name of the Father...

We gather this ... to talk through an incident that happened here at ... College/School a couple of days ago that lead to the suspension of...

Holy Trinity, we need your spirit of wisdom and understanding as we listen to each other and find resolution to any hurt, anger, disappointment and heal the relationship damage that this incident has caused.

May we act with dignity, faith, respect and strength and we ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer for special public communications such as school board media interviews

Come Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu
Be with us as we represent our school in communication with the media
Be with us in our words, our conversation and our actions

Come Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu
Bless us with active listening
Bless us with understanding of questions
Bless us with right judgement in our replies
Bless us with care and compassion in our tone of voice
Bless us with appropriate gesture and posture

Come Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu
Enfold us,
Empower us
Enthuse us in the spirit of
our school and motto
So we speak and act as true witnesses
Of Gospel values.

Amen.



Prayers for staff appointments, welcome and farewell

Prayer before teacher appointment interviews

(Tagged positions. Can be done in parts or as one prayer.)

Sign of the Cross.

Creator God,

Create in us an open heart and mind as we consider the applicants for this teaching position. Help us to see your goodness and your creation in each person.

Jesus our Teacher,

Companion us on our Emmaus journey through this process of appointment for a teacher in our school. May we be guided by the Gospel values you model for us.

Holy Spirit,

Guide us, enlighten us and fill us with wisdom, understanding and clarity as we discern the acceptability and suitability of each applicant. May we be faithful to the mission of Catholic education. In our decision-making prompt and inspire us to choose someone who will safeguard and strengthen the Catholic character of our Catholic School.

Amen.

Prayer before principal appointment interviews

(Can be done as a complete prayer or in parts for various meetings/interviews)

Sign of the Cross.

Living God

As the overall leader of our school, we ask your guidance and help as we journey towards appointing a new principal, a new leader for our school.

We come before you as we embark on this very important decision for our Catholic school. We ask that you bless us with knowledge, insights and right judgement to see clearly through your eyes, the giftedness, suitability and acceptability of these applicants.

Jesus, Teacher and Guide

As our Emmaus companion on this journey we pray for a heightened awareness of your enduring and strengthening presence with us in Word and Sacrament.

Help us to see how each applicant would mirror you in their leadership across the spiritual, religious, pastoral and professional responsibilities to this Catholic community.

Holy Spirit

Enfold us with wisdom as we move through the appointment process

enlighten us with insights that will help our decisions

encourage us with an openness to possibilities

empower us with authority in your name to ensure that the Catholic character of our school is safeguarded and strengthened in its leadership.

In the spirit of our School's Mission statement we pray that this will be a time of blessing for us all. **Amen.**

Prayer for staff exit reviews

God of our Journey

Bless us as we remember and reflect

On ... (name/names)

journey of teaching

at ... (name school)

Bless us with caring and compassion

Bless us with listening

Bless us with insight

Bless us with honesty

Bless us through, with and in the 'spirit' of Jesus our Way, our Truth and our Life.

Amen.



Prayers for Catholic Character Review and for ERO visits

Prayer before a Catholic Character Review

Jesus, as teacher and centre of Gospel values
Bless us as we prepare for a Catholic character review.

For this opportunity to explore ways to promote and strengthen our Catholic character.

We praise and thank You Jesus our Guide

For the chance to reflect on our Catholic character with the wisdom and experience of Catholic character review personnel.

We praise and thank You Jesus our Guide

For this time of in-depth reflection on the areas of pastoral care, Catholic community, Religious Education and Statutory Requirements and compliances we have self-reviewed as a school.

We praise and thank you Jesus our Guide

In the words of Psalm 25 we pray together:

'Lord make us know Your ways

Lord teach us Your paths'

Amen.

Prayer in Thanksgiving for a Catholic Character Review adapted from Ecclesiastes 3

We pray in thanksgiving for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit on our Catholic school community during this time of review:

For a time of leadership and learning

a time of insight and inspiration,

For a time of sacredness and scriptural reflection

a time renewing and reviving,

For a time of safeguarding and strengthening

a time weeding out and planting seeds,

For a time of prayer and praise
a time of review and renewal,
We give thanks through, with and in Jesus
our source of Catholic character renewal
in faith, hope and love. **Amen.**

Prayers for ERO Team Visit

Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu

We pray for your guidance and protection
as we journey with our ERO Team during their
visit to ... (name) Catholic School.

Bless us with enlightenment and
understanding.

Bless us with courage and compassion.

Bless us with an open-ness to suggestions and
advice.

Bless us with wisdom and support in our
governance role, in our companionship
of family-whānau and our support of
management and curriculum.

In our role with principal, staff and parent
community may we show the presence of
the 'living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his
transforming love and truth.'

Come Holy Spirit-te Wairua Tapu. **Amen.**

NZCBC Document, "The Goals of a Catholic School" #12

Thanksgiving for an ERO Team visit

We pray in thanksgiving for the guidance of
the Holy Spirit during this journey with our
ERO Team.

We are thankful for the insights,
encouragement and acknowledgement of
teaching and learning at ... (name of school.)

Leader: E te Ariki

All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

We are thankful for the wisdom shown and
suggestions that the ERO team has made
to help improve teaching and learning,
management and governance at our school.

Leader: E te Ariki

All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou



We are thankful for the opportunity to discuss and reflect on our role as the Board at this Catholic school and pray that we can continue to serve as Jesus served.

Leader: E te Ariki

All: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

As the Board of a Catholic school may we encourage all to 'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God.' **Amen.**

Prayers for boards, family-whānau, friends and school communities on the occasion of one their companions 'Going home to God'

(The following are suitable for all circumstances of death, some have been especially written for Boards supporting school communities who experience suicide or other sudden, unexpected death. You may choose any of the verses plus the ending or any combination that suits your community.)

Creator God,
Our hearts are heavy
Our minds are full of disbelief
We are weighed down with heaviness
We are stunned into silent wondering.

Jesus, Loving Friend,
You wept at the death of your friend Lazurus
Be with us in our loss
Be with us in our questions
Be with us in our helplessness and regret
Turn our tears into gladness as we re-member special times.

Holy Spirit,
Comforter, consoler and guide
Reassure us, renew us, revitalise us

with the friendship and memories that we shared together.

Grace us as bearers of compassion and courage for each other.

Enable us to carry within us the light of our friend in a new presence.

May we be a blessing, a source of new hope and new life to each other
in communion with ... (name). **Amen.**

Angels of God

Angel of Wisdom
guide us

Angel of Comfort
enfold us

Angel of Light
enlighten our vision

Angel of Presence
fill up the gap of absence

Angel of memories
scatter 'seeds of possibilities'

Angel of Hope
encircle, enfold, embrace us

Angel of Homecoming
remember us with the
song of our Angel Friend

(Use a song for the conclusion of the Liturgy. This may be something from the students' repertoire. Example: Alleluia to tune of Shrek 'Alleluia'.)



Blessing for the planting of a tree in memory of a loved one

Introduction

Leader:

We will bless this ... (name) tree as a living, growing symbol of the hope and peace we pray for in our country Aotearoa.

We pray in connection with ... (name) our ... (mention relationship) who has died and in whose honour we plant this tree.

(Leaf shape prayers/prayers on leaves may be read at this stage and placed in the hole.)

May the roots of this tree remind us of the deep faith of ... (name) and how she/he was grounded in the love of family-whānau and Jesus Christ.

All: Bless us and others with this FAITH in our family-whānau

May the trunk of this tree remind us of the strength of ... (name) and how they loved the strength of nature and of how they would speak out for causes that needed support.

All: Bless us and others with this STRENGTH

May the branches of this tree remind us to be like ... (name) and reach out to those in need with care and compassion.

All: Bless us with CARE and COMPASSION.

May the leaves of this tree remind us of the 'letting go of prejudice/judgement' and 'greening' with mercy and justice that ... (name) shared in their life

All: Bless us and others with ACCEPTANCE, MERCY and JUSTICE.

(Here you may like to add your own verses linked with the tree and the person being remembered. You may also like to change the wording in the

above blessing sections to fit the Gifts of your loved one.)

May the song of the birds

May the colours of the leaves and flowers

May the connections and memories of ...

(name) who we remember and pray for, live on in the seasons of this tree planted here in this place.

Amen.

(You may like to listen to some music or sing an Alleluia or something appropriate as people scatter earth around the tree.)

Litany of transformation

By James B Lyons

1. You took what was small and made it enough.

Response: We praise the wonder of our God

2. You took what was ordinary and made it extraordinary. **[R]**
3. You took what the world holds in contempt and made it a treasure. **[R]**
4. You took what was wounded and made it whole. **[R]**
5. You took wind and storm and made the calm. **[R]**
6. You took a child by the hand and gave her life. **[R]**
7. You took people afraid and gave them courage. **[R]**
8. You took time to listen and gave space to hear. **[R]**
9. You took sin and weakness and gave pardon and peace. **[R]**
10. You took bread and wine and gave yourself. **[R]**
11. You took death and showed it how to live. **[R]**



For the blessing of a new classroom

Sign of the Cross.

Leader: We gather to give thanks for this new classroom at ... (name) Catholic school ... (place).

We gather in the wairua-spirit of the school motto ... (insert).

We gather to give thanks for all who have been involved in the production of this new classroom.

Jesus reminds us that 'if the Lord doesn't build the house then in vain do the builders labour.'

Opening prayer

Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph the carpenter, we give thanks for the construction of this classroom.

We are thankful for the gift of this room for our school and for the many teachers and pupils who will teach and learn within its walls.

We thank you for the possibilities for learning Gospel values and the experiences of you these children will have in this room.

Scripture:

You are God's temple
(1 Cor 3:10-11, 16-17)

Proclaimer: A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ...

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in you?

If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy and you are that temple.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Sprinkling of the building and surrounds with Holy Water.)

Pray the **Our Father**.

Concluding prayer

We give thanks for all who have contributed to this building and made it possible.

We pray for those who will teach and learn in here.

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

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Āmene.**

(Pray in other pertinent languages.)



Turning the first sod – laying the foundation stone of a building site for a school

The following prayers are from Bishop Viard College, Porirua.

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. **Amene.**

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

Leader: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

The work which is beginning here today will invigorate our community and make us grateful.

We know the familiar words of the psalm: 'If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labour.' Whenever we look to the interests of our community and serve them, we are, in a sense, God's own co-workers.

Let us pray that God will bring this construction to successful completion and that his protection will keep those who work on it safe from injury. **Amen.**

Scripture

You are God's temple (1 Cor 3: 9c-11)

Proclaimer: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ...

Leader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 121

Psalm response: Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall come my help?

My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Response: Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

May he never allow you to stumble! Let him sleep not, your guard.

No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, Israel's guard.

Response: Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

The Lord is your guard and your shade; at your right side he stands.

By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night.

Response: Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

The Lord will guard you from evil, he will guard your soul.

The Lord will guard your going and coming both now and forever.

Response: Lord, give success to the work of our hands.

Leader: Lord God, you have given us the knowledge and power to become your co-workers. We ask your blessing on all who work with you as master builder on this building project. We pray that this building will be a place of gathering in your name to build up your kingdom on earth. **Amen.**



Prayer of commissioning for a Student Trustee on a Catholic College Board of Trustees

... *(name of Student Trustee)*

May God the Creator design your life
especially during this next year
as you share your time, treasure and talent as
a Student Trustee on this ...

(name of school) College Board of Trustees.

May Jesus the Teacher guide your way with
Gospel values

May the Holy Spirit breathe on you and
enlighten you with understanding, wisdom
and courage to speak out.

May you be blessed in 'living out' the wairua-
spirit of the ... *(name of school)* College motto "
....." as you share on behalf of the ... *(name
of school)* College Student Community.

In the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

A blessing of thanksgiving for the gift of service given by a Student Trustee

... *(name of Student Trustee)*

We thank God our Creator,
Jesus our Teacher and the Holy Spirit
who inspires us for gifting the
... *(name of school)* College Board of Trustees
with your presence, gifts and sharing during
this past year.

We have been blessed to have you as a
student voice, witness and companion.

As you hand over this role to your successor...
(name)

May you be blessed this day and all days to
walk well on your journey
in the peace and justice of Jesus.

May you be wrapped in the 'korowai-cloak' of
God's loving.

May you be cherished as you continue
to share the gift of your time, talent and
treasure.

May you be blessed with the Light of Jesus,
our Way, our Truth and our Life. Amen.



Psalm cards

Instructions for Psalm cards

Circulate cards around the Board table.

Read Psalm quote and pray a prayer which links with the needs of Board and school.

You indeed are
My rock and my fortress
For your name's sake lead me
And guide me....
Into your hand
I commit my spirit
You have redeemed me
O Lord Faithful God
Psalm 31: 3-5

I will instruct you
And show you the way
You should go.
I will counsel you
With my eye upon you.
Psalm 32:8

Happy are those who
Make the Lord their trust...
You have multiplied,
O Lord my God
Your wondrous
deeds and your
Thoughts towards us;
None can compare with you.
Psalm 40:4-5

God is our refuge
and strength.
A very present help
in trouble
Therefore we will not fear
Though the earth
should change
Though the mountains
shake in
The heart of the sea.
Psalm 46:1-2

The Lord is a stronghold
For the oppressed.
A stronghold in times
Of trouble
And those who know your name
Put their trust in you.
For you O Lord have
not forsaken
Those who seek you
Psalm 9:9-10

I bless the Lord who
gives me counsel
In the night also my heart
instructs me.
I keep the Lord always
before me
Because he is at my right hand
I shall not be moved
Psalm 16:5-6

Let the words of
my mouth and
the meditation
Of my heart
Be acceptable to you
O Lord, my rock and
my redeemer
Psalm 19:14

All the ends of the earth
Shall remember
And turn to the Lord
And all the families
Of the nations shall
worship before him
For dominion belongs to
The Lord and he rules over
the nations
Psalm 22:27-28

The Lord is
my light and my salvation
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the
stronghold of my life
of whom shall I be afraid?
Psalm 27:1

Call on me
In the time of trouble
I will deliver you
and you
Shall glorify in me
Psalm 50:15

Create in me a clean heart,
O God
And put a new
And right spirit within me.
Restore to me the joy
Of your salvation
and sustain in me a
willing spirit

Psalm 51:10,12

For God alone
My soul waits in silence;
From him comes my salvation
My fortress; I shall not be
shaken
He alone is my rock
And my salvation
My fortress
I shall never be shaken.

Psalm 62:1-2

Trust in him
At all times, O people
Pour out your heart
before him;
God is a refuge for us

Psalm 51:10,12

For you have
been my help
in the shadow of your wings
I sing for joy
My soul clings to you;
Your right hand upholds me

Psalm 63:7-8

By awesome deeds
You answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
You are the hope of all
the ends of the earth
And of the farthest seas.

Psalm 65:5

May God be gracious to us
And bless us
And make his face
shine upon us.
That your way be known
upon the earth
Your saving power among
all the nations

Psalm 67:1-2



Websites useful for prayer

<http://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Just what it says – linked with seasons and scripture with a ‘Meditation’ centre and focus.

<http://www.pray-as-you.go.org/home/>

Geared to those on the go with mobile devices – music, scripture, reflection, meditation.

<http://www.prayerwindows.com>

Praying using icons and art to help centre and reflect.

<http://www.prayingeachday.org>

Links with liturgical season and days. Scripture plus other prayer resources.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm>

Just what it says – useful, practical, inspiring and calming.

www.catholic.org/prayers

Traditional Catholic prayers, videos, calendars, liturgical seasons and reflections for all ages and stages.

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Trial Schools

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He Karakia

E te Atua, Kaihanga o ngā mea katoa
Loving God Creator of all things
E inoi atu mātou i tō mātou wehe atu i konei
We ask your blessings as we are about to leave this place.

Be our near companion
Spread the road before us with beauty and adventure
Give us on our journey, a heart wrapped in wonder
that we may rejoice in all that we meet.

You call us to serve you and your people in the midst of a busy world
When we struggle, tautoko, support us
when we stumble awhi, hold us
When we fall, hikina, lift us up.

Give us hearts full of aroha and right spirit, wairua pai
Strengthen us to share this aroha and wairua
with those we are called to share this journey with.

Support us onwards from here until the shadows
lengthen and the evening comes
Until the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over for the day
and our work is done in it.

May we continue to be greeted by the smile of
the rising sun each tomorrow
Amen.

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