

Prayer Liturgy for Staff at the beginning of the School Year

“Give courage to those who are apprehensive, care for the weak and be patient with everyone”.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

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Opening Prayer: (Leader)

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

As we gather here today to begin our new school year, we take time to pause, and become aware of the presence of God here with us this morning. *(Short silence)*

We thank God

- for the energy we have gained during our summer break.
- for each other: for colleagues we know already and have worked with, and for new colleagues whom we welcome into our school community today.
- for looking after our school community during the pandemic
- for the students we will meet and teach during this school year.

We pray that we will always be mindful of each other; and thankful for the gifts and talents of our students. We ask for the gift of wisdom as we help them to develop to the best of their ability.

A suitable piece of music may be played here. Hymn, sacred song or instrumental.

Reader 1:

Help us, Lord to share your love with those we meet during the school day. Help us to find ways to love those we encounter amidst the 'bits and pieces' of everyday life and the challenges that may arise.

Let us now listen to the beautiful prayer of St Teresa of Ávila as we place all our trust in Jesus.

Christ has no body but yours
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands,
yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

The above Prayer could also be sung.

Leader

Jesus was a great teacher. He spoke to people in a way that they could easily understand. He met them in the reality of their everyday lives. He was a gifted storyteller. His stories always had a much deeper meaning. His style of teaching invited people to explore their own lives and to grow into a deeper relationship with God and with each other. He both inspired and challenged his listeners. He connected with them. Teaching is like that, for teaching is not only a matter of covering a syllabus, but is about enabling students to gain an understanding of the meaning of their lives; the extent of their giftedness; their value as human beings. It is about them knowing they are a 'beloved of God' in whom he is well pleased. It is about them knowing that God calls them to be his love in the world today.

Reader 2

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 4:26-29

Jesus went on to say: “The Kingdom of God is like this. A man scatters seed in his field. He sleeps at night, is up and about during the day, and all the while the seeds are sprouting and growing. Yet he does not know how it happens. The soil itself makes the plants grow and bear fruit; first the tender stalk appears, then the ear, and finally the ear full of corn”.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Short silence for reflection.



Sow the right seed... you shall reap a better harvest' by Guru Heqde is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Leader:

“Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch for the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow.” Leon Brown

God Our Father,

We ask that, during this school year, your Holy Spirit will guide us in all we do:

1 In our relationships with colleagues - that we will always be supportive of each other.

Lord Hear Us: **Lord Graciously Hear Us**

2 In our daily work - that we may inspire a love of learning in our students.

Lord Hear Us: **Lord Graciously Hear Us**

3 In the challenges this year may bring for our school community. Help us to face all difficulties with a heart which trusts in your love.

Lord Hear Us: **Lord Graciously Hear Us**

4 In our interactions with our students – that we will always remember that each is a child of God.

Lord Hear Us: **Lord Graciously Hear Us**

5 In meeting with parents – that we will be the friendly face, and caring person they need to meet.

Lord Hear Us: **Lord Graciously Hear Us**

Together we pray the prayer that Jesus himself taught us.

Our Father.....

Concluding Prayer:

God our Father we pray that we may be inspired by the teaching of your Son; that we will remember to make space for silence and reflection in our own lives; and that we will always use the gift you have given us to enable our students to discover their own gifts and become the best people they can be.

May our school community be a place;
of faith,
of hope,
and of love.

And together we praise God for this new school year as we say,

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.