

**Catholic Education Week 2023**  
**“Pilgrims of Faith”**

**Daily Prayers**

**Monday**

**Opening Prayer of Praise:**

I begin today  
embraced in the arms of God the Father  
empowered by the strength of God the Spirit  
immersed in the love of God the Son  
I begin today in the company of the Trinity  
Father, Spirit and Son  
I begin today

**A reading from the Gospel of Matthew**

Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

**Reflection:**

Let us take time to think of the ways in which our schools “make disciples of all nations”.  
In silence let us pray for those who have not yet heard the Good News.

**Closing Prayer:**

Lord,  
Your light is the only light I need  
as I travel through life's mystery,

Your word the only voice I hear  
that still small voice that leads me  
to the place where I should be,

Your presence is the only company I need  
as I walk this narrow road,

Your fellowship the warmth I crave  
to help me on my way.  
Amen

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**Tuesday**

**Opening Prayer of Praise:**

I begin today  
conscious of the forgiveness of God the Father  
conscious of the companionship of God the Son  
conscious of the guidance of God the Spirit  
conscious of the unity of the Trinity  
Three in One

**A reading from the book of Chronicles**

Then on that day David first appointed the singing of praises to the LORD by Asaph and his kindred.

- <sup>8</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
<sup>9</sup> Sing to him, sing praises to him,  
tell of all his wonderful works.  
<sup>10</sup> Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.  
<sup>11</sup> Seek the LORD and his strength,  
seek his presence continually.  
<sup>12</sup> Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgements he uttered,  
<sup>13</sup> O offspring of his servant Israel,<sup>[b]</sup>  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

**Reflection**

Let us take time to think of when we have told others about the Glory of God.  
In silence we pray that we may participate in the Mission of the Church.

**Closing Prayer**

Lord God, help us to love those  
whom we find it difficult to love.  
Give us a heart that reaches out  
to those we would otherwise ignore.

It's not easy, Lord  
and on our own we shall fail.  
But with your help all things are possible.  
You led the way

and it is your example that we look to.  
You turned the values of this world upside  
down.  
Do the same with us.  
Lord,  
Help us live the reality of your light and your  
love.  
Amen

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**Wednesday**

**Opening Prayer of Praise:**

As I begin today  
Bless this day  
all that I might see  
all that I might hear  
all that I might smell  
all that I might say

Bless this day  
all that I might serve  
all that I might comfort  
all that I might help  
all that I might guide  
Bless this day

**A reading from the book of Acts**

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ <sup>7</sup>He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

**Reflection**

Let us think of the times when we have been witnesses to our faith for others.  
We pray in silence that we will always use our God given gifts and talents to accompany others on their faith journey.

**Closing Prayer**

In your time, Lord, in your time  
Take the imperfect that is me  
and create  
the person that I could be  
In your time, Lord, in your time

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**Thursday**

Opening prayer of praise:

Be thou my vision, Lord  
this day and every day  
the centre of my life  
the focus of my thoughts  
Be thou my wisdom, Lord  
the inspiration of my words  
in every situation  
Your Spirit my support

**A reading from St. Paul to the Thessalonians**

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.<sup>12</sup> But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters,<sup>[c]</sup> to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; <sup>13</sup> esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, beloved,<sup>[c]</sup> to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. <sup>15</sup> See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise the words of prophets,<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.

**Reflection:**

Let us think of the times when we have not loved our neighbour.  
We pray in silence, asking that through our words, actions, thoughts and relationships that we can work with others to build a Church that is welcoming and inclusive of all.

**Closing Prayer:**

May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within.  
May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a fire,  
so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.  
And may light shine from you,  
like a candle set in the window of a house,  
bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.  
Amen

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**Prayer Service – Pilgrims of Faith**

*[For this service you will need copies of the readings for the readers. On a prayer table you could place a Bible, a candle and other symbols of light. You may wish to use it in conjunction with one of the presentations provided on the theme of Catholic Education Week.]*

**Leader**

We welcome everyone here today to mark the end of Catholic Education Week.

We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The theme of Catholic Education Week is ‘Pilgrims of Faith’. So let us sing/listen to the hymn ‘[Lord you have come to the seashore](#)’.

**Leader**

Today, we ask God’s blessing on all of us here in our school. Across the country this week, schools like ours are celebrating Catholic Education Week. We give thanks for all who belong to our community; and who accompany us on our journey.

We now light a candle which will burn brightly as a symbol of the presence of the God who is with us always and everywhere and especially today in our school.

*[Instrumental music can now be played softly.]*

**Reader One**

Jesus said:

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

**Reader Two**

For Christians, discipleship is at the heart of the Mission that Jesus gave his Church. This can be a difficult task, but St Luke tells us that the Holy Spirit will help us to become witnesses “*to the end of the earth*”.

**Reader Three**

Anyone who does God’s work is his disciple. In our school we try to journey with others, sharing our faith, and putting into practice St Paul’s words to “*encourage one another and build up each other.*”

**Reader Four**

We are called to be the light of the world for others. Light conveys a sense of joy, optimism, goodness, purity, beauty, festiveness, dignity, and life.

In one of his letters, St Paul said:

*The works you do will be visible to all, for the light of day will reveal them.*

**Leader (or Readers)**

Let us spend a few moments thinking quietly about how our school helps us to become a community of faith and learning. (Pause) Lord, we ask you to help us to be in communion with one another.

***Response: Christ, be our guide.***

Let us be grateful for the times when we have worked together with others to build a community of faith, hope and love. (Pause) Lord, help us to participate fully in the life of your Church.

***Response: Christ, be our help.***

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Let us thank the people who remind us of our call to be disciples, especially our teachers, our classroom assistants, and our school support staff. We give thanks to God our Father for all the care and work they do here in our school. (Pause) Lord, we may we answer you call.

**Response: Christ, be our light.**

**Leader**

We bring all these prayers together with our own private intentions, our needs and aspirations, our hopes, and our ambitions as we pray in the words that Jesus gave us:

**Our Father . . .**

Today we pray especially to \_\_\_\_\_ who is the patron of our school. We ask him/ her to pray for us and for our needs today.

**Response: Pray for us**

St _____ , patron of our school	<b>Pray for us</b>
St _____ , who lived a life in communion with Christ	<b>Pray for us</b>
St _____ , who was a witness to your love	<b>Pray for us</b>
St _____ , who teaches us how to be a disciple	<b>Pray for us</b>

**Concluding Prayer**

Dear God, you brighten the whole world because you are the giver of life and light. We need you to shine on our lives so we can understand more, do better, and stay in the warmth of your love. Thank you all for your light and for all your gifts to us.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen