



Prayer for Staff and Senior Students for Catholic Education Week 2018

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Ensure that all have access to the words either digitally on a screen or a written copy.

Gather items:

- Telescope
- Globe
- Binoculars

Phones to silent

Computer

screens closed

Prepare for silence and stillness

Sound prayer chime/prayer bell/Insight Timer App/Singing bowl to call all present to stillness and silence.

Gather: Discovering a New Horizon of Joy

Before we proceed we now acknowledge the Welcome to Country/
Acknowledgement

Welcome to Country can be made by a local Indigenous Elder. If no one is available to welcome to country, an acknowledgement of country may be used. Schools may have their own format for this acknowledgment.

Leader:

In this Catholic Education Week, we light a candle/ switch on a lantern knowing that we are in the presence of a merciful and loving God.

Light candle and pause...

Let us make the Sign of the Cross mindfully making sure that we touch our forehead, our heart or centre, each of our shoulders and then let our hands join in a prayer gesture.

Students come forward with the symbols of discovery

I place this **telescope** to encourage us to look further within ourselves to do the work of Christ in our community. (PAUSE)

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I place this **globe** as a symbol of our connection with the poor and marginalized in the world. (PAUSE)

We place these **binoculars** as a symbol of our school/college which is full of hope and joy and ready to serve our own community, with Christ as our role model and constant companion. (PAUSE)

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

Listen:

Leader: Let us listen to the words of Jesus in the Gospel – Luke 1:39-56

Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (RSVCE)

Mary Visits Elizabeth

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said,

Mary’s Song of Praise

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

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And his mercy is on those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm,
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,
he has put down the mighty from their thrones,
and exalted those of low degree;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.”

Respond

Leader: Pope Francis reminds us - ‘When the Lord calls us, he doesn’t stop at what we are or what we have done. On the contrary, at the very moment that he calls us, he is looking ahead to everything we can do, all the love we are capable of giving. Like the young Mary, you can allow your life to become a means for making the world a better place. Jesus is calling you to leave your mark in life, your mark on history, both your own and that of so many others’ (cf. [Address at the Vigil, Kraków, 30 July 2016](#)). [Pope Francis at World Youth Day Vigil Mass Krakow 2016](#).

Leader:

Choose a word or short phrase from the Mary’s Song of Praise that speaks to your heart.

Take time to meditate or be with this prayer word or phrase.

Time for silent reflection – Adapted from The Year of Youth Brochure: ‘Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young people, Faith and Vocational Discernment’

- What does it mean to be a person/community of joy?
- How can we foster the joy of Christ in our young people and staff?
- How do young people open new horizons to us spreading joy?

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- What do we do now that supports our young people and teachers to 'be Jesus - to be his hands and feet' in creating a community of love, joy and service?
- What can we do make our community more authentic in our practice of service to those in need? **(Pause)**
- How can we better listen to the voices of our young people?

Go Forth

Leader:

Let us go from this place to make Jesus known to others.

Leader:

May we open our eyes to find Jesus present in all aspects of our lives.

All: Amen

Leader:

May we use our words and actions to draw attention to those in need.

All: Amen

Leader:

May we welcome the strangers in our midst and provide them comfort and shelter.

All: Amen

Song: **2018 Youth Day Song** [Called.mp3](#) Lyrics below

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Year of Youth 2018

'Called'

1. Dreamtime stories breathe where we stand,
With ancient footsteps the present lands. Whoa
From the ocean to the soil
To the city scape and farmers toil.

**We'll go out into the world fuelled by the power of God
Share our stories lift our voices,
Open our eyes to new horizons
For spreading the joy of the Lord
We are called.**

2. Now's the time we are called.
To live Christ's mission and change the world. Whoa
To lead justly and serve the poor.
To be the face of Christ to all.

**We'll go out into the world fuelled by the power of God
Share our stories lift our voices,
Open our eyes to new horizons
For spreading the joy of the Lord
We are called.**

Alleluia. We are called!
Alleluia. We are called!
Alleluia. We are called!
Alleluia.

**We'll go out into the world fuelled by the power of God
Share our stories lift our voices,
Open our eyes to new horizons
For spreading the joy of the Lord!**

**We'll go out into the world fuelled by the power of God
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