



# Prayers for Students Years 7-12

# Catholic Education Week 2018

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(Could be used at beginning and end of day or before and after breaks)

### YEAR of YOUTH PRAYER

#### **Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland**

Inspire our entire faith community,  
As we prayerfully discern new horizons for  
spreading joy in the lives and communities  
of the People of God.

#### **Come Holy Spirit of Youth**

Fill the hearts of young people with the hope and  
love of Jesus Christ.  
Enliven our community with the creativity,  
energy and joy of youth.  
Guide us together, as we strive to offer God's mercy  
to those who feel abandoned or outcast.

#### **Come Holy Spirit of Faith**

Empower our community to be courageous.  
Unite your people as witnesses of love.  
Walk with us, as we blaze new trails of discipleship,  
Accompanying young people as we  
renew the Church together.

#### **Come Holy Spirit of Vocation**

Stir within young people an awareness of God's call.  
Reveal to us the graces of young people.  
Guide us all, in finding our place and raising our voices  
To build a civilisation of love.

**Amen**

Our Lady of the Southern Cross,  
Help of Christians, pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,  
friend of the young, pray for us

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## CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

**LEADER:** In Catholic Education Week we give thanks for the healing power of God in our community in a quiet, prayerful way.

We now begin to come into the presence of God. No words are necessary for this prayer as this prayer is ..'about being aware of the presence of God in the very centre of our being.'

We can use a mantra that we say in our mind.

' Mantras involve saying a word over and over again as part of one's breathing pattern.'

(Beth Nolan, ' Prayer Strategies– A Teachers Manual' Harper Collins Pub. New York 1995 pg 128)

You may like to repeat a mantra in your own mind using words 'Jesus be with me..' 'Come follow me', 'Abba Father', 'Maranatha' . As you breathe in and out be conscious of the word/s you have chosen.

**LEADER:** Let us begin.

Leader begins with the sound of a chime.

Close your eyes – Breathe in... Breathe out... Breathe in... Breathe out...

### Silence

(Depending on the age and experience with this form of prayer, start with silence from 5-10mins and work up to larger periods)

## Ring chimes to end the prayer

**LEADER:** We now say a prayer.

"The fact is, God loves us even more than we love ourselves. He believes in us even more than we believe in ourselves. He is always "cheering us on"; he is our biggest fan." - Pope Francis, WYD 2016 Closing Mass

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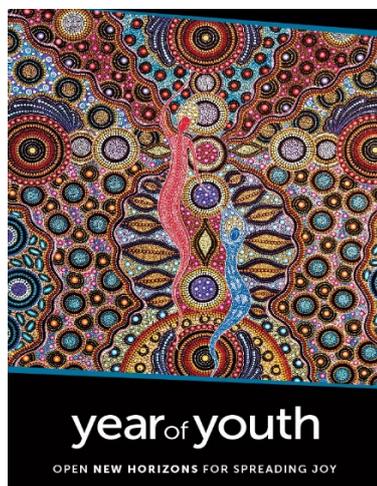
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## OUR BIGGEST FAN [Classroom Prayers](#)

Our Loving God, thank you for loving me even more than I love myself. Thank you for believing in me even more than I do. Thank you for “cheering me on”, and being my “biggest fan”, even when I struggle to back myself. As I begin my day, remind me to be gentle with myself. To approach my day with kind eyes, looking for even the smallest success. To speak words of affirmation, even if these words seem hard to find. To be respectful and patient, even when I feel frustrated with myself. Help me to love myself as you love to do.



Other prayers and resources can be found below

Song lyrics are also available here:

[Year of Youth Song](#)

[Year of Youth Resources](#)

[Year of Youth Prayer](#)

[Classroom Prayers](#)

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## A CALL TO SERVE

**“The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty!**

**– Pope Francis, 2013 WYD Papal Visit to Rio de Janeiro Favelas**

Saint Mary the Cross MacKillop, Patron Saint of this Great South Land, reminds us to **“never see a need without doing something about it”**.

It takes just a moment of pause to see **poverty all around us**.

From those who are homeless, living on the streets or on a friend’s couch to those who are **spiritually poor**, feeling lonely and isolated, eager to connect, to share and **to be loved**.

No matter **who** it is that we are **called to serve**, may we, like Mary MacKillop reach out to those in need with **compassionate** and **humble** hearts.

**Amen.**

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