

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2025**

**PRAYER SERVICE OR EUCHARISTIC LITURGY**

Students will need to be prepared and tasks completed in the weeks leading up to the celebration.

**BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS:**

Based on an ancient practice, pilgrims carry a stone from their place of origin to leave somewhere on their ‘pilgrimage’ symbolising the release of a spiritual or emotional burden. In this year of Jubilee that is titled ‘Pilgrims of Hope,’ each class is invited to bring forward a bowl of stones to be placed at the altar that remind us that we are leaving behind the stones that weigh us down and recommitting to creating a world based on Jesus’ invitation that we will hear in the Gospel today.

Our guiding Scripture for Catholic Education Week 2025 is “*May the God of Hope fill you with joy and peace”* (Rom 15:13).

The challenges of our world have multiplied over recent times. As we reflect on current affairs, we might wonder what lies ahead for us. We may feel that our hope has stretched close to the breaking point. As pilgrims of hope, Christians do not believe this is the end. Jesus calls his followers on their journey to create a world based on justice, peace and courage.

Invite students into dialogue and wonder about the theme **“*May the God of Hope fill you with joy and peace”***(Rom 15:13), and develop some actions resulting from the discussion.   
*The following outline can be adapted to suit the needs and context of the school community when preparing for a Eucharistic Liturgy or Prayer service.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:**

*In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s spiritual and cultural connection to Country, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land upon which we gather today – (insert correct name).*

*We recognise the continued care of the lands and waterways passed from generation to generation, wisdom that is shared, and life that is celebrated in harmony with the natural environment.*

*We honour the Elders, past and present, who have laid the foundations, traditions, and culture for emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and we commit to continue working together for reconciliation and justice.*

**WELCOME:** Leader/Presider

Today we gather to celebrate Catholic Education Week… (Create own words of greeting to your community). A pilgrim is someone who travels from place to place with a purpose.

*Symbols brought forward.*

Possible symbols to be brought forward:

* Backpack with bottled water, map and muesli bars.
* Suitcase
* Bowl of stones for each class

to show that in this jubilee year we are reminded that we are all pilgrims on a journey, bringing hope.

**GATHERING HYMN**: Some Gathering Hymn Suggestions:

[**Official Year of Jubilee Hymn**](https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/inno-giubileo-2025.html)

* Singing Jubilee (Pilgrims of Hope) – John Burland
* School Song
* Anthem: Towards Tomorrow - John Burland (Lord Teach Me Your Ways)
* Gather Us O God - Monica Brown
* Light the Way – Andrew Chinn, Butterfly Music (People of Peace 2012)
* Gathered as One – John Burland (Lord Teach Me Your Ways)
* Jesus is the Light – Michael Mangan, Litmus Productions (Setting Hearts on Fire)
* We Are the Body of Christ - Andrew Chinn 2012 (Butterfly Music (People of Peace
* We are God’s Hands - Andrew Chinn
* Gather us in - Marty Haugen
* Welcome to All - Andrew Chinn (Welcome to All)
* Welcome to Life - Matt Maher (Welcome to Life)
* Together As One - Andrew Chinn (This Day)
* Love is What We Need - Steve Angrisano (High Above Our Way)
* Appropriate Song of own choice

**Penitential Act**:

Leader/Presider: Lord Jesus, your love invites us to bring good news to the poor.

Lord have mercy

All: Lord have Mercy.

Leader/Presider: Lord Jesus, your love calls us to restore sight to the blind.

Christ have mercy

All: Christ have mercy.

Leader/Presider: Lord Jesus, your love urges us to release the captives and set the oppressed free.

Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Lord, we come before you today as pilgrims of hope in this year of Jubilee. Open us to your presence in our lives and in one another. Help us to see you in everyone we meet. Inspired by your example, make us people of justice bringing compassion to others.

All: Amen.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**Leader/Presider:**

1st READING: (choose between)

1. Romans 15:4-7, 13 (*This is preferred as it is the theme for Catholic Education Week*).
2. Isaiah 40:31

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (If Eucharistic Celebration)

Recommended for Primary: “Lord you have the Words of everlasting life”

Recommended for Secondary: Psalm 146

Reader: Praise the Lord!  
 Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
     I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

**All: Let us rejoice in hope**

*(Musician starts to play quietly on the stringed instrument. Recorded stringed music could be used)*

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
    whose hope is in the Lord their God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
     the sea, and all that is in them;  
 who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
     who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
     the Lord loves the righteous.  
The Lord watches over the strangers;  
   he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
   The Lord will reign forever.

Praise the Lord!

**All: Let us rejoice in hope**

*(Musician finishes playing).*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia Response (of own choice)

Preferably, the Alleluia is to be sung to a known tune. The following verse could be chanted or spoken.

**All: Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; God sent me to bring Good News to the poor.**

**Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Luke 4:15-21

**HOMILY OR RESPONSE:**

Reflection:

Students could make a PowerPoint as a reflection exploring the Gospel. Students are to use images from the world and from their community that highlight or speak to the deeper Gospel message. Encourage students to identify situations that do not take the literal meaning of the Gospel.

Wonderings to put around the photos:

* Australia is a wealthy country but how are we poor? (not literal material poverty)
* Who is imprisoned in our community (not prisoners)? What holds us back or imprisons us?
* What prevents us from the fullness of life?
* What can we be blind to? (not literal blindness)

**PRAYER OF FAITHFUL:**

Leader/presider: Loving God, we gatheir the needs and concerns of all present and bring them to you.

Reader: For the leaders of the Church, that they will lead with justice, compassion and peace (pause)

God of hope, hear us

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer**

Reader: For the leaders of the world, that they will always work for peace.

(pause)

God of hope, hear us

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer**

Reader: For all in Catholic Education, that we give witness to the God of hope.

(pause)

God of hope, hear us

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer**

Reader: For all of us gathered here, may our words and actions always honour the dignity of others. (pause)

God of hope, hear us

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer**

Reader: For students in all our schools, may they be inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus. (pause)

God of hope, hear us

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer**

Reader: For those suffering the effects of natural disasters and conflict worldwide, may they feel our compassion as we reach out in solidarity. (pause)

God of hope, hear us

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer**

Reader: For those who are sick, may they feel your loving presence through us.

(pause)

God of hope, hear us

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer**

Reader: For those who have lost loved ones, they will be comforted by our words and actions. (pause)

God of hope, hear us

**All: God of hope, hear our prayer**

Leader/Presider: In hope and faith, we bring our prayers to our loving God. We ask this through

Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

**LITURGY OF EUCHARIST**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

*Depending on the context and in consultation with the Presider, a decision would be made about which of the Eucharistic Prayers would be best suited for this celebration of Mass. Eucharistic* ***responses are most appropriately sung ie Holy, Holy, Holy; Acclamation; Amen; Lamb of God****.*

Suggested Mass Settings:

* Mass Jubilee and Mass of Celebration by Michael Mangan (PRIMARY)
* Mass for God’s Children by Andrew Chinn (People of Peace) (PRIMARY)
* Mass of St Francis (Paul Taylor)
* Mass of Alphonsus (Paul Bird)
* Mass Shalom (Colin Smith)

Communion Hymn Suggestions:

* This Is My Body - Andrew Chinn (People of Peace)
* One Bread One Body - John Michael Talbot
* I Am The Bread of Life - Andrew Chinn (Welcome to All)
* Offering - Stephen Kirk
* Come to the Table - John Burland (Lord Teach Me Your Ways)
* The Bread of Life - Michael Mangan (Setting Hearts of Fire)
* Do This in Memory of Me - John Burland (Celebrating the Sacraments)
* When We Eat This Bread - Andrew Chinn (These Hands and Together As One)
* One Body, One People - Michael Mangan (Setting Hearts On Fire)
* Take and Eat - Michael Mangan (This Is The Time)
* We Gather at Your Table - Andrew Chinn (People of Peace)
* Emmaus Song - Monica Brown
* Everything is Grace - Matt Maher (Saints and Sinners)
* Your Grace is Enough - Matt Maher (All the People Said Amen)
* I am the Bread of Life - Steve Angrisano (High Above Our Way)
* Clean Heart - Matt Maher (Echoes)
* Sing Over Your Children - Matt Maher (Alive Again)
* Remembrance (Communion song) - Matt Maher (Alive Again)
* All the people said Amen - Matt Maher (All the people said Amen)
* Appropriate Song of own choice

**RITUAL ACTION** *for celebrations other than Eucharist*

Listening and Attending to the School Community

1. A representative from each class is invited to come forward to collect a bowl of stones. They are not to collect the one they brought in at the start of the liturgy. This action symbolises that we are on a journey together and are called to share one another’s hopes, dreams and struggles. The bowls of stones can be placed and used in each other’s classroom to remind us of our interconnection and our call to transform the world through the invitation of Jesus.
2. Watch the following video from CAFOD: [2025 Jubilee of Hope](https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?pglt=41&q=cafod+%2b+jubiliee+%2b+accnimation&cvid=f290925e23d94707bc4fb3fbf558c0a0&gs_lcrp=EgRlZGdlKgYIABBFGDkyBggAEEUYOTIICAEQ6QcY_FXSAQkxMDA3MmowajGoAgCwAgA&PC=U531&ru=%2fsearch%3fpglt%3d41%26q%3dcafod%2b%252B%2bjubiliee%2b%252B%2baccnimation%26cvid%3df290925e23d94707bc4fb3fbf558c0a0%26gs_lcrp%3dEgRlZGdlKgYIABBFGDkyBggAEEUYOTIICAEQ6QcY_FXSAQkxMDA3MmowajGoAgCwAgA%26FORM%3dANNAB1%26PC%3dU531&mmscn=vwrc&mid=3B9084CC8ED4644CAF993B9084CC8ED4644CAF99&FORM=WRVORC&ntb=1&msockid=e173eb9403a911f086f825b288086af9)

After watching the video, propose the following questions:

* I wonder how we can be people of hope?
* Where did you see hope in the video?

Silent Reflection: Invite students to identify someone or a situation that is in need of hope.

In the gospel, we heard that Jesus came to bring sight to the blind. Sometimes we may not fully see people or situations in need of hope. Take a moment to reflect in silence on how you can be a pilgrim of hope.

**THE CONCLUDING RITES God Sends – We Go  
  
Dismissal**

Leader/Presider: Lord Jesus, strengthened by our gathering today, may we live as people of faith, walk as people of hope and grow as people of love.

**Recessional Hymn Song suggestions**:

* + - Live the Good News – Andrew Chin
    - Justice and Freedom – Michael Mangan
    - The School Song
    - Bring Forth the Kingdom - Marty Haugen (Spirit & Song)
    - Go make a Difference - Steve Angrisano
    - Raise Your Voice for Justice - John Burland (Lord Teach Me Your Ways)
    - Source of Life - Andrew Chinn (Many Roads One Journey)
    - In the Footsteps of Jesus - Andrew Chinn.
    - To the Ends of the Earth by Fr Rob Galea
    - We are God’s Hands by Andrew Chinn
    - Jesus is the Light – Michael Mangan (Setting Hearts on Fire)
    - Alive Again - Matt Maher
    - Rising - Stephen Kirk
    - Thank You - Stephen Kirk
    - People of God - Andrew Chinn
    - Hearts on Fire - Michael Mangan (Setting Hearts on Fire)
    - Appropriate Song of own choice