



## Prayer Service for Primary School Communities: Remembering Pope Francis

Opening Song: *We're Building God's Kingdom* - John Burland

### Introduction:

Leader: Today we stand in footsteps millennia old.

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which gather, live and educate, the \_\_\_\_\_ People, whose culture and customs have nurtured these lands and waterways since men and women awoke from the great dream. We honour the presence of the ancestors who reside in the imagination of this land and whose irrepressible spirituality flows through all creation.

As part of the Diocesan educational community, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, we recommit ourselves to justice, hope, peace, and reconciliation for all.

Leader: We come together to remember and pray for Pope Francis. People loved Pope Francis for his kindness, love for others, and the way he taught us to care for the poor, protect the earth, and love everyone—no matter who they are. Let's remember his life and pray for him as he now rests with God. We light this candle to remember him. In this Easter Season we gather in hope and joy. We gather in thanksgiving for the life of Pope Francis.

Leader: We place this container of soil. This reminds us of Pope Francis's invitation for the whole of humanity to care for the Earth. In his memory we recommit to caring for all creation.

### Opening Prayer:

Leader: God of All Creation,

We thank you for the life of Pope Francis, for his love and care for all people, especially the poor, the sick, refugees, and those in need. He showed us how to be kind, gentle, and loving. We pray that he is now with You, resting in Your peace. Please help us remember his example and act in a way like he showed us to do. We ask this through Jesus  
Amen.

### Gospel:

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 25:35-40

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me."

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'"

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

**Reflection:**

I wonder....

How this piece of scripture connects to the life of Pope Francis?

What word takes your interest from this scripture?

What word or phrase reminds you of Pope Francis?

Leader: Pope Francis taught us that helping others, especially those who are lonely, sick, or poor, and caring for creation are some of the best ways we can show love for Jesus. Pope Francis encouraged people to care for everyone, just like Jesus did. Let's think about the ways we can be kind and help others, just as Pope Francis did.

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

We pray for Pope Francis, that he may find rest in God's loving presence

Loving God hear us.

*Loving God hear our prayer.*

We pray for the world, for the Church, and especially for those who are grieving the death of Pope Francis.

Loving God hear us.

*Loving God hear our prayer*

We pray for those who are poor, sick, or in need, that we may continue to help them as Pope Francis taught us.

Loving God hear us.

*Loving God hear our prayer.*

We pray for all creation, that we may continue to care for the human and non human world as Pope Francis taught us.

Loving God hear us.

*Loving God hear our prayer.*

**Closing Prayer:**

Leader: God of all Creation,

We thank You for the gift of Pope Francis. Please help us to always be kind, loving, and helpful, just like he was. Bless all of us here today and our families. We pray that we will follow the example of love that Pope Francis gave us by caring for the poor and marginalised and for the beautiful gift of the whole world.

Amen.

**Closing Song:**

*Hearts on Fire* - Michael Mangan

*These Hands* - Andrew Chin