



Prayer Service for Secondary School Communities: Remembering Pope Francis

Opening Song: *Christ be our Light* - Bernadette Farrell.

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. Today we gather in prayer as we remember and honour the life of Pope Francis. Pope Francis was not only a spiritual leader but also a symbol of love, humility, and mercy. Through his words and actions, he taught people how to be followers of Jesus in today's world. As we come together in prayer, let's ask God to help us live the way that Pope Francis showed us.
Amen

Opening Prayer:

Leader: God of All Creation,

We come before You today to remember the life of Pope Francis. Thank You for his witness of faith, his love for the poor, his work for peace, and his call to look after all creation. We ask You to comfort all who mourn and help us to remember the ways he brought people together. May his example inspire us to live more like You, loving others and caring for the world around us.
Amen.

Gospel:

A Reading from the Gospel of John 13:34-35

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection:

I wonder....

What did Pope Francis teach us?

What word or phrase stands out for you from this piece of scripture?

How can we be more like Pope Francis in our lives?

Leader: Pope Francis often spoke about love; love for God, love for each other, and love for all of creation. His actions reflected his words. He showed us how to live out this love, not just in big moments, but in the small, everyday choices we make. Whether he was reaching out to the marginalised or standing up for peace, he called us to be more compassionate, more selfless, and more faithful. Pope Francis reminds us that faith is not just about believing in God but living that belief through love and service to others.

(Pause for a moment of reflection.)

Prayers of the Faithful:

We pray for the Church and for the world, that we may continue to follow the example of Pope Francis in serving others with love and humility.

Loving God hear us.

Loving God hear our prayer.

We pray for the cardinals, that they may be truly inspired by the Holy Spirit in choosing a new pope who will lead with faith, love, and humility.

Loving God hear us.

Loving God hear our prayer

We pray for those who are suffering or in need, that we may follow Pope Francis's example of reaching out to the poor, the sick, the marginalised, and every part of creation.

Loving God hear us.

Loving God hear our prayer.

We pray for Pope Francis' family, friends, and all those who loved him, that they may feel the comfort and peace of God's presence.

Loving God hear us.

Loving God hear our prayer.

Silent Prayer:

Leader: Take a moment of silence to offer your personal prayers for Pope Francis and for any intentions that are in your heart today.

(Allow time for silent prayer.)

Closing Prayer:

Leader: God of Love and Mercy,

We thank You for the life of Pope Francis. We are grateful for his example of service, compassion, and leadership. As we remember him today, help us to live out his message of love in our own lives. Strengthen us as we continue his work of building a more just and loving world. May his soul rest in peace, and may we carry his legacy forward.

We ask this through Jesus.

Amen.

Closing Song:

To the Ends of the Earth by Rob Galea