

Liturgy for Year 7 & 8 School Children

Returning to School after Covid-19 Lockdown May 2020

Preparation:

- Prayer focus (e.g. light blue cloth and spaces for a candle, bible and symbol of illness, journey, autumn?)
 - Matches and taper to light candle
 - Candle (unlit), bible and symbolic items placed on a table and children chosen to process in with them, holding them high and walking slowly
 - Check Powerpoint and sound works
 - Reading parts given and children allowed to prepare ahead of time:
 - Leader (teacher)
 - 1 child to read opening prayer and light candle
 - 1 reader for Gospel reading
 - 4 children to read prayers of intercession (or 1 person to read all 4)
 - Teachers (if more than one) pre-warned that they all join in the final blessing.
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Welcome

Teacher welcomes children and introduces liturgy

SLIDE 1

(N.B. Music will play automatically when the slide is clicked. if you think slide 1 is not appropriate please remove. It highlights a 'normal' return to school where a teacher may have a blessing ritual with students. We appreciate that this should not happen in the current conditions requiring hand sanitizing)

Leader: Welcome back to school, everyone! Tena koutou katoa!

SLIDE 2

Let us each begin by beaming a huge smile for God, for our friends, and for our teachers... *pause for smiles...* It is good to be back at school after weeks of staying home because of Covid 19. It is good to rejoice, to be happy, and our Easter word ALLELUIA is a great word to say how we are feeling. Let's say it together:

All: ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

In our Gospel story today Jesus reminds us that he **is the WAY, THE TRUTH and the LIFE**. Take a moment to remember some of the great things that have happened to you during Easter and while you have been at home with family keeping each other safe. Let's sing together our Gathering Song.

Gathering Song: Sing a New Song (by Dan Schutte)

SLIDE 3-10

Words and song are on the Powerpoint. As it is sung, children in a procession bring a candle, a bible and desired symbols of the lockdown / Health / Autumn, to the prayer focus.

Leader: And so, together as one, we make the Sign of the Cross in Te Reo Maori; **SLIDE 11**

All: **Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu, Amene.**

Reader 1: *Creator God, it is nice for us to be back at school with our teachers and friends.
Bless teachers and children who continue to teach and learn from home.*

*We remember our loving Jesus who walks beside us and shows us how to
learn. Please help us to show respect for each other, our teachers, parents and
caregivers.*

so that we can be safe and happy at school.

All: **Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu, Amene.**

All: **Loving God we are glad that you are here with us.**

Light candle

Leader: God of children and teachers, you love us so much that you sent your son Jesus,
to be our taukana, our older brother. Our school is like a big family and we are
glad to be back with our teachers and friends.
...*pause*... Together, let us listen to God's word and think about how much we are
all loved by God.

Reader 1: A reading from the Gospel of John 14: 6 -12

SLIDE 12

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled.

You have faith in God; have faith also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

If there were not,

would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come back again and take you to myself,

so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way."

Thomas said to him,

"Master, we do not know where you are going;

how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Leader:

SLIDE 13-18

Lets sing together as one

All sing together 'God of Our Journey (Monica Brown)

(NB Click on the speaker icon slide 13 and then click again to move to the next slide for the chorus repeated in the following 5 slides. Slide 17 is a reflective slide before repeating the chorus one last time)

Leader: Let us talk to God in prayer...

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

SLIDE 19

The response to our prayers is: *E te Atua, whakarongo mai ra ki a matou*

Reader 1: Loving God thank you for our parents and caregivers who looked after us when we were not able to come to school.

ALL: *E te Ariki, whakarongo mai ra kia matou*

Reader 2: Loving God, we pray for all the doctors, nurses and essential workers who are making sacrifices so that people around the world may be safe and healthy.

ALL: *E te Ariki, whakarongo mai ra kia matou*

Reader 3: Loving God, we pray for all people who are sick with Covid 19 and ask you to heal them.

ALL: *E te Ariki, whakarongo mai ra kia matou*

Reader 4: Loving God, we pray for those who have died from Covid 19, that they will be re-united with you. in heaven.

ALL: *E te Ariki, whakarongo mai ra kia matou*

Leader: Let us say the Lord's Prayer together

All: Our Father....

Leader: Bow your heads as your teachers pray for God's blessing on you.

Teachers: *with raised hands in a gesture of blessing over the children.*

SLIDE 20

*E te Atua o nga tamariki,
We believe that you made us in your image to be like you. We believe that you sent Jesus to us to show us how to live and how to be happy. We believe that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always and help us to be like you.
Thank you, God. Thank you very much! Amen.*

All: Amen