



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A LITURGY RESOURCE FOR SCHOOLS TO START THE YEAR.

You are welcome and encouraged to adapt to fit your needs and themes.

Other key words/concepts that may be appropriate to include:

Welcome / Unity / Whakawhanaungatanga / Kotahitanga / Solidarity / Synodality / Connectedness / Community / Belonging / Tūrangawaewae / Discipleship / Mission / Your school Charism & Gospel Values etc

This liturgy may also be useful to utilise following (or as a part of) your school's usual way of welcoming new members to your school community through whakatau, powhiri or welcome.

GATHER

BE IN THE PRESENT MOMENT, RECOGNISING GOD IN OUR MIDST

SET UP A PRAYER SPACE

Create a prayer space or focus for the time of prayer.

This may include:

- School/Class candle/s.
- Displaying imagery or symbols that connect to your school's Charism or Gospel Values.
- Display links to the theme of journeying such as paper chain of people different shoes etc. Or a collection of different symbols representing school life.

As it is ordinary time you may like to display a green cloth.

SING OR LISTEN TO A SONG/HYMN TO WELCOME/GATHER

Here are some examples of gathering/uniting songs:

[Haere Mai](#)

[Our God is here](#)

Together as One by Andrew Chinn

[Let us come together](#)

[Come together](#)

[The servant song \(pilgrims on a journey\)](#)

WELCOME

We gather in joy and anticipation for the year ahead. We especially welcome those who are joining our faith community.

Nau mai, Haere Mai e te whānau!

We are also grateful for everyone that makes this school such a wonderful place to belong to. The teachers, support staff, our parish, the Board of Trustees, the wonderful families and of course the tamariki and rangatahi!

Because of this, we gather this morning with prayerful gratitude as we embark on the journey of 2022 together with Jesus at our side and as our guide.

Let us join together in the sign of the cross.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,

At the beginning of this new term teach us to:

Love as you love us.

Journey with others, and listen like Jesus, with compassion and aroha.

Be the face, hands and feet of Jesus. Amen.



PROCLAIM

TIME TO READ THE SCRIPTURES

The Road to Emmaus

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

In the Scriptures today we are reminded that Jesus always walks with us – even when we might not notice!

As the Church, we are also called to walk alongside and journey with others as Jesus would. So, let us journey together this year and be the hands and feet of Christ!

We will now listen to a story of how Jesus journeyed with others.

This Gospel story is set in the time just after Jesus has died. Two of his followers are walking along the road and are saddened by his death. For them, they had thought that Jesus was going to be their saviour, so they were disheartened, and their hopes had been deflated. However, the resurrected Jesus, unrecognisable to them, starts to walk alongside them and listens to their conversation.

He walks with them, hears their concerns. He accompanies them on their journey.

As it gets late, and they reach their destination of Emmaus, the two followers invite Jesus to stay at their house. That evening as they sit around the table to eat, it is when Jesus broke the bread that they recognised that it was Jesus who had been journeying with them! The story then tells us that they “set out at once” to Jerusalem to share their encounter with Jesus with others.



This is a Reading from the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35)

Let us invite Jesus and the Scriptures to be in our minds (trace a cross on your forehead)

In our words (trace a cross over your lips) **and**

In our hearts (trace a cross on your heart)

The Road to Emmaus

Two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus. They were talking and discussing all that had happened to Jesus. The resurrected Jesus himself came up and walked by their side. However, they did not recognise him!

In this time, Jesus listened to them and their worries. He then shared wisdom about himself and the scriptures. When they drew near to the village to which they were going they asked Jesus to stay with them. When they were at the table together, Jesus took bread and said the blessing; then broke it and handed it to them. It was then that their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; but he vanished from their sight.

Then the disciples said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’

That same hour they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem to share that Jesus had risen indeed!

The Gospel of the Lord.

You may even research other versions of this story, act it out or maybe share a YouTube clip.

*We are pilgrims on a journey –
we are whānau on the road,
We are here to help each other –
Walk the distance and share the load.*



BREAK OPEN

- Make links to any school themes.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

FEEL FREE TO SIMPLIFY, ADAPT OR TRANSLATE INTO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

Leader: At this time of new beginnings, we place our prayers and needs before our loving God.

Te Kaihanga (O Creator),
You made each of us unique and special. May we celebrate and embrace our differences and use our gifts to glorify you.

E te Ariki - Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

Shepherd Jesus,
You are our role model and guide. May we live out our Gospel values here at school, within our whānau, our community and out in the world.

E te Ariki - Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

E Te Ariki, e te Atua ora tonu (Almighty and ever-living God),
We pray for our teachers – that they will be given the awareness, insight, and patience to lead us to new paths of discovery. May they be free from stress and anxiety and may peace flow through their work.

E te Ariki - Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

E te Atua o te aroha (loving God),
Empower your one human family to join hands and recognise the dignity of all and support those in need.

E te Ariki - Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

E te Atua o te katoa (God of all),
You know our journey and our hearts, walk with us through any difficulties. May we be guided by your light and see challenges as opportunities to learn and grow.

E te Ariki - Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

Jesus, Light of the world,
May we share your light with others and be your face, hands, and feet to all we meet. May others recognise your love in our actions.

E te Ariki - Whakarongo mai ra ki a matou

**Bless us, companion God, and be with us each day.
May all that we do be done in your Name. Amen**

Include any school rituals:

- Distribute class candles?
- Commission/bless staff and/or student leaders?
- Special blessing from the priest?



SEND

SENT TO LIVE WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving Lord, we know you walk along side us.

As we start this year and move into the mahi ahead let us listen to this inspiring closing thought.

(Choose one of the below.)

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Yours are the only hands with which he can do his work.

Yours are the only feet with which he can go about the world.

Yours are the only eyes through which his compassion can shine forth upon a troubled world.

Christ has no body on earth but yours.

- Saint Teresa of Ávila

So, as we embark on the journey ahead...

May God bless us with listening ears and open hearts to the world's needs.

May God bless us with responding hearts that call us to follow Jesus.

May God bless us with hearts that create communities wherever we are.

May God bless us with the fire of love on our journey.

May we be Christ's face, hands, and feet to all those we meet.

Working together – Te Mahi Tahi

E Hēhu Karaiti,
During your life on earth you drew people together,
to live together, to work together, to pray together.

You understood that people are happier
when they know and experience the love of others.

Teach us always to include everyone
in our work, in our games,
in our joyful times, and in our sad times.

Pope Francis said,
the only future worth building
includes everyone.

May we play a part
in building stronger
and happier communities.

Amen.

From the Caritas Lent Prayer Booklet 2018

Journey Together – Haere Ngātahi

Two are better than one,
because they have
a good reward for their toil.
For if they fall one will lift the other...
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

E te Atua o te aroha,
God of love,
Thank you for the gift of friendship.
Thank you for those who walk with us
during the ups and downs of life.

In the words of Pope Francis,
help us to regain the conviction
that we need one another.
When we are tempted to go it alone
teach us the value
of community
and co-operation.

Help us to take seriously
our shared responsibility
for others and for the world.
Amen.

From the Caritas Lent Prayer Booklet 2018

SING OR LISTEN TO A HYMN/SONG TO CONCLUDE

“ANŌ TE ĀTAAHUA O NGĀ WAEWAE O TE HUNGA KAWA MAI I TE RONGO WHAKAHARI O NGĀ MEA PAPAĪ.” - RŌMA 10:15-17

“HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FOOTSTEPS OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS” - ROMANS 10:15-17