



Liturgy

This selection of prayer resources is a base outline focused on two scripture readings. It is for 'cut-and-paste' use – a selection of songs, symbols and actions might be added.

Creatively use one or several images of footprints in the sand, cross cultural images of being together, different types of shoes and peoples' footwear...

Welcome – Invitation to Prayer

In the welcome you might focus on the two elements of the Marist Solidarity Campaign: walking together as an expression of solidarity and the solidarity across borders to Asia and Pacific peoples with Marist links. Maybe an account of a recent experience in these terms by a member of the school community can provide the opening welcome.

Gathering Prayer

LEADER: Let us pray this ancient psalm together, a prayer of the Jewish peoples from before the time of Jesus and used by him. This prayer is to prepare our hearts for this liturgy.

ALL: Lord, I long for you, I look for you
I watch for you, I wait for you.
I thirst for you O my Lord, like someone in the desert seeking an oasis,
Like a beast of the wilderness seeking a stream.

I long for your presence, I look for your love,
I watch for your coming,
I wait for your call.

Come Lord, and satisfy me.
Come quench my thirst,
Come refresh and renew me.

Lord, I long for you, I look for you,
I watch for you, I wait for you.

David Adam, Music of the Heart: New psalms in the Celtic Tradition.



Reading: The Micah Call

(Micah 6:8)

READER: You have already been told what is right
and what Yahweh asks of you.
Only this,
To live justly,
To love kindly
And to walk humbly with your God.

Response

READER 1: God and Father of us all, we admit that we have at times neglected to remember
the poor.

ALL: *Forgive us we pray.*

READER 2: God, help us, as followers of Jesus, to work together to establish justice for all
peoples, to be passionate about kindness, and to walk humbly with you. We
seek pardon for when we have overlooked this call of the prophet Micah.

ALL: *Forgive us we pray.*

READER 3: God, we ask you to forgive our nation, Australia, for its harshness towards
people in need who arrive on our shores.

ALL: *Forgive us we pray.*

READER 4: God, pardon us for when we have forgotten to be agents of hope and to speak
positively about the potential of all peoples and cultures.

ALL: *Forgive us we pray.*



Reading

Luke 1:39-45

LEADER: The first account of a solidarity action in the gospels is the visit of the pregnant Mary to her elderly cousin, Elizabeth, who was also pregnant. This is a powerful symbol of Marist solidarity. Mary and Elizabeth walked together, sharing their journey.

READER: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could into the hill country to a town in Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now it happened that as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honored with a visit from the mother of my Lord. Look the moment your greeting reached my ears the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled".

Silent reflection time

Response

READER 1: Lord,
Open our eyes to be like Mary
and see the needs of others.

READER 2: Lord,
Open our ears like Mary,
so that we can hear the cries of those in need.

READER 3: Lord,
Open our hearts like Mary,
so that we can feel the anguish and joys of other people.

READER 4: Lord,
May each of us see, hear and feel
with the oppressed, the poor and the powerless here and beyond our shores.
May our concrete solidarity action generously flow
from this desire and our prayer today.

ALL: Amen



Blessing

ALL: Merciful God,

Bless each of us as we hunger to bring
courage not loss of hope,
justice not unfairness,
peace not conflict,
and generosity not selfishness:

Amen.