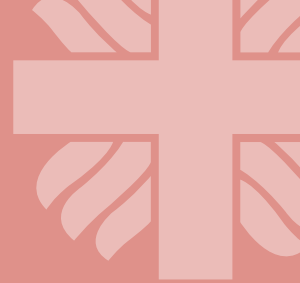


PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: POVERTY



Preparation

This prayer service is designed for a secondary group of students no more than 40 in number. If more than 40 students adapt it using the suggested prompts throughout.

Commitment: Prior to the commencement of the Prayer Service students are divided into four groups. Students write on the hands and feet (template on page 7) actions they can take. As each part of the pledge/commissioning is read have one group come forward to place their hands and feet into the prayer space.

Set up:

Prayer Space:

- Prayer cloth
- Bible
- Candle
- Cross
- Globe or picture of a globe
- Fabric depicting a path that leads to the globe
- Students have their hands and feet completed ready to place into the prayer space during the commitment.

To begin ask students to pause in silence and stillness then have a student bring forward a candle and place it in the prayer space, or light a candle in the prayer space.

Opening Song suggestion:

[Walk with Me](#) – Gary Pinto [Lyrics](#)

[Hands and Feet](#) - Audio Adrenaline

[Do Something](#) - Matthew West

Leader: We gather here today in the presence of God our Father ready to do His work. Let us begin with the sign of the cross. In the name of the Father...
For the times we have failed to do God's work, let us pray:

Reader 1

In a world where there is so much inequality between people,
You ask us to share what we have. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

In a world where there is so much injustice,
You ask us to care for the poor and rejected. Christ, have mercy.

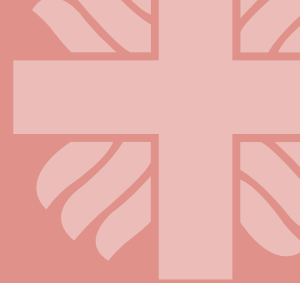
All: Christ, have mercy.

In a world where there is hatred and violence,
You ask us to be kind. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy

PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: POVERTY



Leader: Let us pray,

God of Creation, Each one of us is made in your image. Open our eyes, our hearts and our hands; May our love be free, bold and inclusive.

All: Amen.

All scripture readings taken from (New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised Catholic Edition NRSVACE)

Reader 2: First Reading: 1John 16 -18

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader 3: Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia.

God has sent me to bring Good news to the poor,
And proclaim to all prisoners freedom.

Alleluia.

Reader 4: Gospel: Mark 10:17-22

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.”’ He said to him, ‘Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.’ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: POVERTY



Reflection Suggestions:

Choose one or more of the suggestions below

- *Share the Starfish Story (see Appendix 1) and as a staff member share some thoughts on it or ask one or two students to prepare something.*
- *Pause for some quiet time of reflection.*
- *Use one of the following songs (if not used for the opening song)*
 - ☐ [Walk with Me](#) - Gary Pinto
 - ☐ [Hands and Feet](#) - Audio Adrenaline
 - ☐ [Do Something](#) - Matthew West
 - ☐ [Go Make a Difference](#) by Steve Angrisano
- *During this reflection time use the templates in Appendix 2 for students to write how they could be Jesus' hands and feet in the world, what they could do to alleviate poverty or what they can do to make a difference. Have students keep their template until after the general intercessions when they will be brought forward.*
- *If working with a larger group of students, have 4 – 8 actions written on some larger hands and feet. These will be brought forward after the general intercessions. This could be work done by students prior to the liturgy.*

General Intercessions

Leader: Let us pray, God has entrusted us with the mission of Jesus and we pray:

Reader 5: For the Church, the people of God, that we proclaim without compromise the message of 'good news' to the poor, a message of love, justice, truth, hope and above all human dignity. *(Pause)* Let us pray to our God.

Response: Today may your kingdom come in us and through us.

Reader 6: For all Australians, that the work of Caritas Australia transforms hearts and minds so that those blinded by materialism come to 'see anew' that the goods of the earth, and creation itself, are for the good of all. *(Pause)* Let us pray to our God.

Response: Today may your kingdom come in us and through us.

Reader 7: For all our brothers and sisters around the world, that the work of Caritas Australia transforms hearts and minds so that we all work together to bring equality to our common home. *(Pause)* Let us pray to our God.

Response: Today may your kingdom come in us and through us.

Reader 8 : For all working towards a world in balance, at peace and free from poverty, that we affirm each other's gifts and encourage each other as we work together to bring the 'good news' which ends poverty, promotes justice and upholds dignity. *(Pause)* Let us pray to our God.

Response: Today may your kingdom come in us and through us.

Leader: We make all these prayers and the prayers of our heart through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: POVERTY



Commitment: *Prior to the commencement of the Prayer Service students will have completed the hands and feet template and know which group they are in. As each part of the pledge/commissioning is read have one group come forward to place their hands and feet into the prayer space. Hands could be placed around a globe or picture of a globe in the prayer space and feet could be placed to create a path or many paths, leading to the earth.*

If working with a larger group of students, have chosen students bring forward possible actions. As they bring them to the front, allow some time for them to hold them up for everyone to read or alternatively have them read the actions out before placing them into the prayer space.

Leader: We know that injustices in our world exist and until we work to eliminate these injustices poverty will exist. Today's readings challenge us to step outside our comfort zone and to give. Let us stand and pledge our support to work together for justice and dignity, walk together in hope and build a better future for all.

Will you work towards a just and fair world,
A world in balance,
At peace and free of poverty;
A world which the Church in Australia helps build, where all humans can live in dignity?

Response: We will

(First group {or student} brings forward their hands and feet [hold them up or reads them] and places them in the sacred space.)

Will you make it your mission to transform hearts and minds in the Australian community, inviting them into just and compassionate partnerships with the poor?

Response: We will

(Second group {or student} brings forward their hands and feet {holds them up or reads them} and places them in the sacred space.)

Will you commit to educating others, through your words and actions, of the importance of environmental responsibility?

Response: We will

(Third group {or student} brings forward their hands and feet {holds them up or reads them} and places them in the sacred space.)

Will you help to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity?

Response: We will

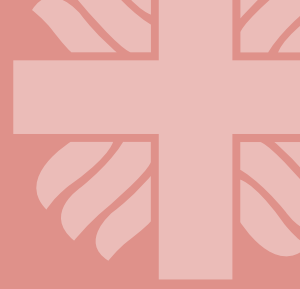
(Second group {or student} brings forward their hands and feet {holds them up or reads them} and places them in the sacred space.)

Let us seal our pledge by praying the Our Father.

All: Our Father who art in heaven...

PRAYER SERVICE

THEME: POVERTY



Final Blessing:

Leader: God, you taught us through your son the dignity of every human being and gave us the great command to love one another.

May we go into the world and take with us the hope of God who is love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen

Dismissal:

Leader: Go now in peace to love the Lord and to show love and generosity to those in need.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing song suggestion:

[Go make a Difference](#) - Steve Angrisano

APPENDIX 1

THE STARFISH STORY



One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?"

The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf.

Then, smiling at the man, he said.... "I made a difference for that one."

Original Story by: Loren Easley

APPENDIX 2

HANDS & FEET TEMPLATE

