

# SOLIDARITY PRAYER SERVICE



## A note for teachers:

- This short prayer service is intended to be run within a classroom setting. Please feel free to use and adapt it according to your students' needs.
- Create a sacred space in the centre of the classroom and ask students to sit around it in a circular formation, all facing the centre. Within your sacred space, you may want to include a candle, a Bible, items that represent solidarity (e.g. images of holding hands or a fair trade item).
- Provide each student with a pen and small piece of paper to write down a pledge later in the session.
- Have an empty bowl or basket nearby.
- Ask students to exit the room and re-enter the sacred space in a quiet and reflective manner.
- You might like to play some reflective music as students enter the room.

## Opening Prayer

**Leader:** We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Loving God, you invite us all to follow in your footsteps, as you walked alongside people who were marginalised, in poverty and sickness. Ignite in us a desire to truly hear and live out your teachings each day as we encounter others who do not have what they need to thrive.

## Reading

**Reader 1:** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

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## Reflection

*You are invited to write your own reflection based upon the issues you have focused on within our classroom, and how they relate to the scripture passage.*

## Prayers of the Faithful

**Leader:** We now call upon the readers of the prayers of the faithful.

**Reader 2:** We pray for our Church leaders, that they continue to inspire us and remind us of Jesus' teachings of love, compassion and solidarity. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**Reader 3:** We pray for our world leaders, that they may work in solidarity to achieve the sustainable development goals, creating a sustainable future for all. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** We pray for organisations such as Caritas Australia, who work to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity for our global brothers and sisters. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

**Reader 5:** We pray for ourselves, that we are inspired to act in solidarity through the choices we make and offer practical support for the well-being of others. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

## Offering of Pledges

*(Suggested reflective music to play for the next part: Chris Tomlin – At the Table)*

*As students are seated, tell them to think about all that they have learnt about the Catholic Social Teaching of solidarity. Ask them write down on their piece of paper, a pledge of how they are going to stand in solidarity with others. Ask them to place their pledge into the bowl located in the sacred space and return to their seats. You may ask them to stay seated in silence, saying a quiet prayer of their own.*

## Closing Prayer

**Leader:** Lord, you created us each equally, as many parts of one single body. May we work together to live out the Catholic Social Teaching of solidarity, acting out our pledges, so that we may bring about long-lasting change in our world.

Through Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**All:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.