

# Pray Book 1 Together

Daily Worship for Catholic Schools

## About the author

Married, with three children of her own, Patricia Ainge has worked as a primary school teacher for many years in West Yorkshire. She is currently one of the Assistant Heads at English Martyrs Catholic Primary School in Wakefield.

She has a background in liturgy, being part of her parish liturgical team, as well as being a member of the Leeds Diocesan Council for Liturgy for several years. She has worked with both adults and children, creating liturgy for different occasions and has a particular interest and expertise in Liturgical Dance. During her career as a teacher, she has led RE in different schools, taking responsibility for many liturgies and prayer services for children of different ages.

She also has a background in writing, having written extensively for her job and also for pleasure. She has had several articles published in the local Catholic paper, as well as two in national journals – *The Furrow* and *Spirituality*.

Patricia wrote this book in response to a need in her own school and it has proved to be a successful resource.

WEEK OF THE EPIPHANY

# Christmas Season

## Prayer focus for this week

Just before Christmas you placed an empty manger in the prayer corner. This should now have the infant Jesus in it and could form part of a Nativity scene. The three kings should be added on whatever day you celebrate the Epiphany. You could place them on the edge of the prayer corner and gradually move them closer as the Epiphany approaches.

Christmas songs that speak of love are appropriate this week, as the Christmas season does not end until the Epiphany.

The theme of our prayer time this week:

God loves us  
and calls us to love  
other people.

Christmas Season Week of the Epiphany

# Monday

## Candle Prayer

*Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.*  
Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy.

## Opening Prayer

*Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*

## Readings

### **Psalm 99**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy.

### **1 John 3:11-21**

My children, our love is not to be just words or talk, but it has to be something real and active. This is the only way we can be sure that we are children of the truth.

*At the end say **This is the Word of the Lord.***

*Ask the children to respond **Thanks be to God.***

## Reflection

The readings this week are about love because Christmas is the season of love. God's love is shown in our lives in many ways: through people, through our own gifts, through the beautiful world we live in. This morning we will think of how that love is made real in our lives.

## Response

Invite the children to think of something that happened during the holidays or someone who made them feel warm and loved. Ask them to close their eyes and picture the scene or the person. Ask them to tell God how they feel and to ask God to bless the person they are thinking of, or thank God for the special time. When they are ready, ask them to open their eyes and say a prayer together or sing a quiet song to say thank you, such as **Jesus is a friend of mine.**

## Dismissal

As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that our lives are filled with God's love. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.

# Tuesday

## Candle Prayer

*Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.  
O praise the Lord, for he has blessed his people. (Psalm 147)*

## Opening Prayer

*Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*

## Reading

**1 John 5:5-13**

This is what the truth is. God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Son, Jesus. Anyone who has Jesus has life.

*At the end say **This is the Word of the Lord.**  
Ask the children to respond **Thanks be to God.***

## Reflection

What is John telling us today? Perhaps the message we are getting is that we are special people and that God takes care of us but we must do our best to live the kind of lives that Jesus asks. God will never walk away from us but sometimes we walk away from God.

## Response

Invite the children to think of a time recently when they chose to walk away from God by choosing to be selfish or unkind or maybe by just not doing what was asked of them. Ask them to say a quiet prayer to say sorry for that choice. Gather these by saying the **Act of Contrition** or a short sorry prayer.

## Dismissal

As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that God always loves us but we too must show love in our lives. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.

# Wednesday

## Candle Prayer

*Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.  
The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light.*

## Opening Prayer

*Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*

## Reading

**1 John 3:22–4:6**

God has asked us to keep his commandments and live the kind of life he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in Jesus and that we love one another as he told us to.

*At the end say **This is the Word of the Lord.***

*Ask the children to respond **Thanks be to God.***

## Reflection

Jesus tells us that there are two main things to do if we want to be the best people we can. One is to love God and the other is to love people, to take care of each other. Today we will think of ways we do that in our class and school.

## Response

Pray a litany with the children, beginning it for them and then inviting them to continue:

When we help each other with our work:

**We show our love for God and each other.**

When we try not to fall out in the playground:

**We show our love for God and each other.**

When we do our best work and try not to be distracted:

**We show our love for God and each other.**

## Dismissal

As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that it is easy to follow God; just treat people the way we would like them to treat us. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.

# Thursday

## Candle Prayer

*Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.  
Let us love one another since love comes from God.*

## Opening Prayer

*Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*

## Reading

### **1 John 4:7-10**

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves, knows God because God is love. God showed his love when he sent his Son, Jesus, into the world so that we could have a better life. This is how great God's love is for us.

*At the end say **This is the Word of the Lord.**  
Ask the children to respond **Thanks be to God.***

## Reflection

What does St John mean by a better life? Think of the message that Jesus gave. He told people not to argue or fight but to care for each other; not to hate but to forgive and to love. Trying to live by this code makes our community better. If nobody cared, then life would be unfair and unpleasant.

## Response

Invite the children to think of someone they do not get on with. Say: 'Today we will try to think what it is that is stopping us getting on with that person and for this one day, we will try not to argue.' After a moment, pray a short reconciliation prayer or say the **Act of Contrition**.

## Dismissal

As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that Jesus gave his life so that we might hear his message. That is how important it is. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.

# Friday

## Candle Prayer

*Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.  
As long as we love each other, God will live in us.*

## Opening Prayer

*Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*

## Reading

**1 John 4:11-18**

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love each other. No one has ever seen God but as long as we love each other, God will live in us and his love will be complete.

*At the end say **This is the Word of the Lord.***

*Ask the children to respond **Thanks be to God.***

## Reflection

This whole week we have been hearing about the love that God has for us and the only thing that we are asked is that we should love God and love each other. Today we hear that God's love is only complete in us if we play our part. We must celebrate and share this love.

## Response

Invite the children to think of someone at home they feel that they show a lot of love to. This is sharing God's love. Ask them to think of one thing they can do today to show that person that they love them. Pause for a moment and then gather this with a song about love, such as **Let us love one another** or **Let there be love shared among us**. If you prefer, gather it all with a shared prayer.

## Dismissal

As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that we share God's love by loving other people. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.

# Monday

- Candle Prayer** *Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.  
People who are fair will rejoice at the presence of God.  
(Psalm 67)*
- Opening Prayer** *Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*
- Reading** **Gospel** John 16:29-33  
Jesus said to his friends, 'I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have told you everything so that you can find peace with me. In the world you will have trouble but be brave for I have conquered the world.'
- At the end say **This is the Gospel of the Lord.**  
Ask the children to respond **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***
- Reflection** Today Jesus promises us that God is always with us, even when things go wrong. Sometimes when things are difficult we feel very alone and we think that nobody understands, but Jesus promises us that God is there. Sometimes God is there in our friends and family, sometimes we need to be very still and quiet to find God.
- Response** Today ask the children to reflect on the times when they have felt sad or unhappy or lonely. What was it or who was it that made them feel better? Invite them to name these people or things aloud and pray together for them.
- Dismissal** As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that Jesus is with us when things go wrong. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.

# Tuesday

## Candle Prayer

*Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.*  
I will not leave you orphans. I am going away but I will come back to you and your hearts will be full of joy.

## Opening Prayer

*Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*

## Reading

*Choose two children to read the psalm.*

### **Psalm 67**

**Response: All the kingdoms of the earth will sing to God.**

When your people were starved you gave them new life.  
You prepared a home for the poor people.

**All the kingdoms of the earth will sing to God.**

May the Lord be blessed every day for he looks after us.  
This God of ours is a God who saves.

**All the kingdoms of the earth will sing to God.**

## Reflection

The psalm today has the same theme as the yesterday's reading.  
God is there for us when things go wrong.

## Response

Invite the children to pray a litany of praise for the people and things that help them. They can use the names and idea from yesterday if they wish. Begin it for them by saying:

For all the people who help us when we are sad:

**Response: We thank you, Lord.**

For all the places we love to be when we are unhappy:

**We thank you, Lord.**

(Go on to name individuals if the children wish.)

## Dismissal

As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that God takes care of us. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.

# Wednesday

## Candle Prayer

*Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.  
Your words are truth, Lord. Bless us with your truth.*

## Opening Prayer

*Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*

## Reading

**Gospel** John 17:11-19

Jesus prayed to his Father and said, 'Protect my friends from evil. Your word is truth. Bless them with the truth. As you sent me into the world, I am sending them. For their sake I bless myself so that they too may be blessed in truth.'

*At the end say **This is the Gospel of the Lord.***

*Ask the children to respond **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

## Reflection

In the Gospel Jesus asks his Father in heaven to bless his followers as they try to follow his ways. We are those followers today and Jesus was asking his Father to bless us too as we try to follow in his ways and to live the way he wants.

## Response

Invite the children to think for a moment about being chosen for something. Can they think of a time when they were picked to do something? It makes us feel very special. God chooses all of us. We are all special to God and he has picked us all to do special things for him. Ask the children to repeat the following prayer after you:

**Lord Jesus, we feel very special that you have chosen us.  
Help us to always try to make other people feel special too  
as we help them to know you.**

## Dismissal

As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that we are chosen by God to share his love with others. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.

# Thursday

## Candle Prayer

*Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.*  
I will send you the Spirit of truth.

## Opening Prayer

*Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*

## Reading

**Gospel** John 17:20-26

Jesus prayed to his Father, saying, 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am. I know you and they know that you sent me. I have told them about you and will carry on doing that, so that your love may be in them and I may be in them.'

*At the end say **This is the Gospel of the Lord.***

*Ask the children to respond **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

## Reflection

Jesus is talking to his friends just before he dies. He wants them to feel brave and strong when he goes, so he tells them that God will never leave them. He tells us that too.

## Response

God is everywhere in the world and whenever we see a kind act or a caring word or gesture or somebody trying to help, then God is there. Invite the children to reflect upon the things happening in the world that show us this. Choose something they know, such as a local charity, e.g. a children's hospice, and pray for them together. If you choose Cafod you could pray the **Prayer for Cafod.**

## Dismissal

As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that Jesus is with us whenever we see something good. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.

# Friday

- Candle Prayer** *Choose a child to read the Candle Prayer as you light the candle.  
The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said.*
- Opening Prayer** *Pray the **Morning Offering** or another suitable prayer together.*
- Reading** **Gospel** John 21:15-19  
Jesus appeared to his disciples after he had risen from the dead and he said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, do you love me?' and Simon said, 'Yes, you know that I do.' Jesus then said to him, 'Then you must feed my lambs.' He asked him this three times and three times he told Peter to look after his lambs and his sheep.
- At the end say **This is the Gospel of the Lord.**  
Ask the children to respond **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***
- Reflection** Today Simon Peter is given his mission and so are we. When Jesus tells us to look after his lambs and sheep he is talking about his people.
- Response** Invite the children to think of ways that they can do what Jesus asks. Make a list together of all the things they can do to care for other people. Pray together for God to help them do this.
- Dismissal** As we finish our prayer time this morning, let us remember that we are the people that Jesus has asked to take care of each other. Let us say our Candle Prayer together.