

World Teachers Day – 29 October 2021

Acknowledgment of Land, Seas, Skies and Waterways

As we reflect this World Teachers Day, we remember and acknowledge the First Nations Peoples who have walked upon and cared for these lands, seas and waterways for many thousands of years. Lore has been taught on these lands, seas and waterways over millennia; today on World Teachers Day, we honour the ways in which these ancient peoples have handed down the wisdom of this ancient culture to young people over time. We pay our respect to the elders, past, present and emerging who will continue to teach and learn on this land.



Figure 1 Photo from Bec Burns

Context of World Teachers Day

World Teachers Day is held in Queensland annually on 29th October. It is a day to acknowledge the work that teachers do in our schools in helping to form the minds and hearts of our young people. This day recognises that teaching is so much more than a job. It is a vocation that requires skill, passion, dedication, and flexibility to adapt to an ever-changing world. Whenever we reflect on how and why we think in a particular way, it is often a special teacher who comes to mind, reminding us of how a lasting impression was made, or why we view the world through a particular lens. Teachers in Catholic Schools have the added privilege and responsibility of inviting our young people to encounter the Catholic World View and to enter dialogue with learners from all faith backgrounds and traditions, providing a safe space to inquire and experience their spiritual self.

Scripture – Gospel reading from Today

Jesus Heals the Man with Dropsy

[Luke 14:1-6]

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had dropsy. And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, 'Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?' But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. Then he said to them, 'If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?' And they could not reply to this.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Figure 2 Christ heals a man with dropsy.
Photograph. Britannica ImageQuest,
Encyclopædia Britannica, 25 May 2016.

Reflection by Bec Burns

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Perhaps the first thing you notice when you read this Scripture is the word Dropsy. You may have heard of this term before, or you may have needed to google the meaning. The medical dictionary explains it as a swelling of soft tissue due to excess fluid and linked to heart disease. In modern times we may say the person was suffering from edema. Whatever the case was, Jesus noticed the need for the person to be treated as an individual and to be helped in a way that would enrich his life and take away some of the barriers he lived with daily. Jesus had to take several steps to help this person. Firstly, he had to look and notice the human being. Secondly, he had to decide to take action, it may have been easier just to eat his meal, and not upset the balance of power that was held by the Pharisees. Thirdly, he had to defend this action before challenging others to reflect on what they would do if their own child or beloved, or working animal was suffering. This is the work of teachers every day. They notice. They see the learners in their space as human beings who need care and individual attention. After this they take action. They may try different classroom strategies,

seek the help from leadership and specialists, meet with parents, make adjustments and listen to the child to ensure they have the best possibility to grow and flourish. Teachers also do not work to set time schedules. Teachers often live the famous quote from Mary MacKillop, “*Never see a need without doing something about it*” which sometimes requires work and advocacy outside regular hours of schooling. At Cairns Catholic Education all members of our education community endeavour to ensure that the best services and expertise needed for every learner is provided. It is this commitment to their vocation that has carried Catholic Education in Australia for the past 200 years

Prayer

Giver of all wisdom and greatest of all teachers,
look upon our teachers with love.
Grant them the resolve to nurture our eager minds
and to never give up on us who fall behind.
Bless their hearts for they rejoice when we succeed
and encourage us when we fail.
Bless them with gentle patience for the path of learning is never easy.
Kindle a spirit and passion in them
it is the flame that ignites the love of learning in us
Help them see the potential in each student as their belief in us means much.
Instill in them a commitment to keep on learning
as it shows us to not fear new knowledge.
Inspire them to touch the future
as they influence how big we dream for ourselves.
Bless our teachers who have come before for their work endures to this day.
Let the light of your example shine upon all teachers
to build up with their words,
to love with their mind and to share with their heart.
Amen



Figure 3 Image and Prayer
from [NCDSB](#)

Call to Action

- Pray the above prayer as a family.
- Check on the [AITSL website](#) for World Teacher’s Day Audit for ways to celebrate and acknowledge our teachers.
- Talk to your child about their teacher and what qualities they notice about not only their teachers but also any specialist teachers and school officers as well. Which qualities do they admire?

