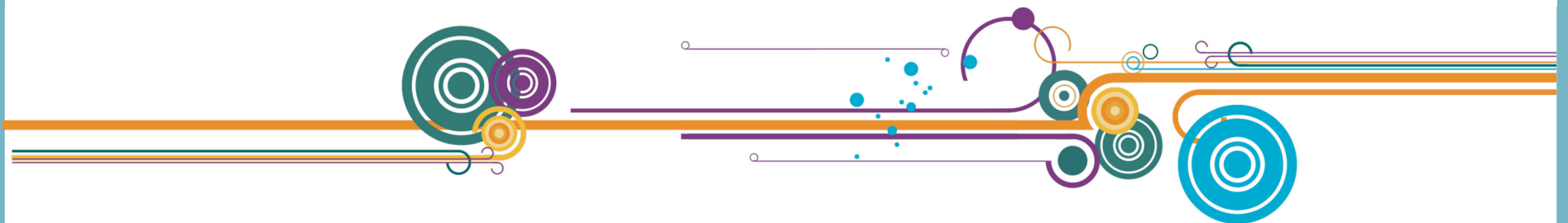




Council of **Catholic School Parents**

Prayers for Meetings



Opening Prayers for Parent Meetings

These prayers are offered as a practical way for members of the school community to come together in prayer, to reflect on their gifts and the mission of the Catholic School.

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| ❖ Beginning | ❖ Welcome |
| ❖ Building Bridges | ❖ Hope |
| ❖ Respect | ❖ Recognition |
| ❖ Example | ❖ Values |
| ❖ Unity and Diversity | ❖ Ending |



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Prayers Compiled by
Sydney Federation of P&Fs

BEGINNING

Leader:

The beginning of a new school year is a good time for dreaming and planning. The Catholic school - that educating community of children, pastor, parents and teachers - has such great promise. It can be a marvelous place where people really belong, where the values of the Gospel can set children free to learn and grow, and to live a full and happy life. Let us pray that our association will play a vitally important role in creating this educating community.

All:

Lord Jesus, you are with us as we commence our year's work.

Help us to understand our importance in educating our children.

And bless our partners - the teachers. Guide us in our decisions

And open our hearts in friendship to each other.

May we show particular care to those who are most in need.

May we welcome, especially, those who are shy and uncomfortable.

And may this meeting of ours result in many benefits for the children on whose behalf we gather.

Amen

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Revelations 22:13



WELCOME

Leader:

Our Schools need the support of all parents. Each one has his or her unique contribution to make; some special quality that can help build a community that really cares for children. Let us pray that all parents will experience a sense of warmth and welcome, and that there will be a rich sharing of ideas, talents and enthusiasm as together we go about our work of helping our children to grow and learn.

All:

Lord Jesus, you are with us now.

Help us recognise your presence in each other.

May friendship flourish here.

Fill us with a deep sense of peace.

Inspire us to listen with attention and patience to each other, to share with courage and generosity, and to welcome the ideas of all.

May this meeting of ours strengthen our friendship, build our community and increase our confidence in ourselves and our school.

Amen.

Above all, hold unfailing your love for one another since love covers a multitude of sins. Practise hospitality ungrudgingly to one another.

1 Peter 4: 8-9



BRIDGES

Leader:

The Catholic school is at its best when it is a vital part of the parish community, sharing in the Church's work of spreading the Good News. Let us do all we can to strengthen the links between our parish, our school and our homes. Let us pray that our children will feel at home in the Catholic community and see their Faith as something that gives meaning to their lives.

All:

Lord Jesus, help us to become builders of bridges.

Bridges that will link our parish and our school, our teachers and our parents, our hopes for our children and the realisation of these hopes.

And, above all, help our children to see the relevance of their Faith, and ours, to their everyday lives.

May this meeting of ours unite us in our vision and strengthen us in our purpose.

Amen.

Put on them, as God's chosen ones ... compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience ... and above all these, put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

Colossians 3: 12-15



HOPE

Leader:

At Easter we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, the triumph of life over death. It is the great season of hope. Catholic schools should be places of hope - Easter places! Let us pray that our schools will be inspired by a view of life that is joyful and optimistic and that our own association might contribute to this.

All:

Lord Jesus, fill us with the spirit of hope and joyful expectation.

You have shared your life with us and, if we allow it to happen, we can never be alone.

The future you have in store for us is beyond all human expectation.

May this meeting of ours reflect the promise we share, and may we strive to keep our schools places of hope.

Amen.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week ... Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you".

John 20:19



RESPECT

Leader:

As parents we want our children to develop the quality of respect. Not a weak compliance but a genuine respect for themselves, for their companions, for their teachers - and for us! This sort of respect is a real valuing of God's gifts. It looks for what is good in ourselves and others. It builds on strengths. Let us pray for a respectful community.

All:

Lord Jesus, you showed the greatest respect for people - the poor, the sinners, the ill, the outsiders, and especially, the children who have a special place in the Kingdom.

Help us to value each other.

To value our pastor, our teachers and all those who work at our school.

But above all, help us to value our children.

May this meeting of ours deepen our respect for each other and give us the opportunity to help build up your Kingdom in our school.

Amen.

.....and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



RECOGNITION

Leader:

We all know the power of praise and recognition in the building of self-esteem. Children, parents, teachers - we all flourish when our contributions are acknowledged. Let us begin this meeting by praying for the many generous people who help to build up and maintain our educating community.

All:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for our children; they are your gift and a constant reminder of your love.

We thank you for our partners - the teachers - who, along with us, 'touch eternity'.

We thank you for the school secretaries whose very presence makes school more like a home.

And we thank you for each other and for the work each has done in building our community.

Bless this meeting of ours where we celebrate our many strengths and plan our continuing work in your service.

Amen.

**I have called you by your name,
You are mine.
Behold, I have carved you
In the palm of my hand.**

Isaiah 43:1; 49:16



EXAMPLE

Leader:

Children learn so much from watching their parents and teachers. This can be a somewhat frightening thought, yet, when we think about it, they are learning many more good things than bad from being with us. Let us resolve to show them more clearly what our deepest beliefs and values look like when they are acted upon. And let us pray for the strength to teach our children, and each other, by example as well as words.

All:

Lord Jesus, we have long seen you as offering the great example of how life should be lived.

Help us to be models for our children.

May they see us as people who are loving and forgiving, peaceful and just, compassionate and generous, prayerful, full of fun and full of hope.

May this meeting of ours be inspired by the ideals we hold and the hopes we have for the future of our school.

Amen.

He took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them: "Whoever receives one such child in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me receives not me, but him who sent me".

Mark 9:36-37



VALUES

Leader:

Catholic schools are built on values. Through their lessons and programs, through the Religious Education they offer, and through the ways in which teachers and pupils relate to each other, Catholic schools continually teach certain values. But values are most effectively learnt in our homes. Let us pray then that our teachers and parents will teach the values of Jesus.

All:

Lord Jesus, help us all become better teachers of values.

Let us teach the value of love without which children cannot grow.

Let us teach the value of justice which sets children free from the forces that hold and bind and limit their growth.

Let us teach forgiveness that re-unites and makes us whole again.

And let us teach hope in a glorious future and in a God that has carved our name in the palm of His hand.

And bless this meeting of ours. May it be energised by the values of your Kingdom.

Amen.

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour.

Psalms 25: 4-5



UNITY-DIVERSITY

Leader:

Unity and diversity are two sides of the one coin, the coin that admits us to the world of problem-solving and creative work. There is a great richness in every group of people; fresh ideas, challenging thoughts, different talents, various experiences. All can contribute to building up the group. But the group must have unity; it must be able to bring things together, to find compromises, to set plans, to share tasks, to gain co-operation. Let us pray that our association can creatively balance these important elements in the interests of our children.

All:

Lord Jesus, give us the courage to welcome new thoughts.

Help us to have an open mind and confidence in the promptings of the Spirit.

Guide us also towards harmony and help us trust the wisdom of our friends.

Renew our confidence in Your presence as we seek to serve this community.

And bless this meeting of ours where we have to make the decisions that will be in the best interests of our children.

Amen.

Jesus prayed, "May all be one, as you, Father, are one in me and I in you ... that the world may believe that you sent me".

John 17:21



ENDING

Leader:

The end of the year approaches and our work for the moment, is almost complete. Let us remember the many blessings we have received this year, the friendships we have made, the challenges we have met, the struggles we have endured, and the achievements we have celebrated. Let us be thankful for all the graces bestowed on our education community, on our school.

All:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for your presence in the life of this association and our school.

You have spoken to us through the events of the year.

*In our many discussions about Catholic schooling,
In our shared plans and hopes and dreams,
In the prayers and liturgies and celebration on special occasions,
And, often enough,
In the words of our children.*

Bless all of those who have been part of our community.

Bless especially the teachers, children and parents who will not be here next year.

And bless this meeting of ours where we gather to bring our year's work to completion.

Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever; Give thanks to the God of Gods for his mercy endures forever; Give thanks to the Lord of Lords, for his mercy endures forever.

Psalm 136

