

Formed in Prayer

For use in personal or staff prayer



1. Beginning

- Be still and ask the Holy Spirit to be with you.
- Give thanks to God for the blessings in your life.
- Ask for forgiveness and surrender worries to God.
- Pray the opening prayer.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, I/we ask that you be present in this space. I/we pray that you speak to us through the words of scriptures, forming us through this prayer. I/we ask that the Holy Spirit guides us closer to your likeness.

2. Listening to the Gospel - Sunday 26th July

Matthew 13:44-52

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied. He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

3. Reflection and Quiet Time

Catholic Leaders must seek, find, and appreciate the hidden pearls within those people we lead. It is essential to understand that God has also sought, found, and recognized the treasures that lay within ourselves.

God paid the highest price and ultimate sacrifice of His Son Jesus on the cross so that we might be saved and made welcome in the kingdom of heaven. Being a Catholic Leader comes with sacrifice. Do you face yours with the exuberant joy of the man in the parable, or do you give way to frustration, exhaustion, and apathy? We need to remind ourselves of the celebration of the treasure that we are seeking and to reach for the ‘fine pearls’ that are found in the scriptures and the sacraments. The analogy of the dragnet is an apt one for those in Catholic ministry, particularly in schools gathering people from many backgrounds and beliefs. For some, it might be tempting to seek only the ‘good fish’ and not extend the invitation to the diverse faith experience that we find in our seas. By narrowing our focus, we risk overlooking the treasure that exists in both the new and old. Have you seen the pearl of great value, for which you are ready to sell all that you have to buy it?

4. Pray for Your Inten-

- Yourself, family and friends
- School or ministry
- Strength, courage or guidance
- Any other needs

5. Closing

Dear Lord, help us to seek the treasure of a comforting kindness, which manifests as understanding more precious than riches, more powerful than the oppression of others, with the power to continually transform our hearts. Let our parable be manifest in our actions, our kindness, our generosity of time and our hearts for understanding the needs of the world.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus.”

Phil 4:6-7