

Orange Shirt Day Prayer Service

Adapted from the Saskatchewan Catholic School Board Association

Opening Prayer

Let us begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Loving God, your holy word tells us that we are so precious in your sight that you know how many hairs are on our head. Each of us, from every culture is your beloved child. Thank you so much for loving us that much. As we celebrate Orange Shirt Day, help us to grow in love for your children in all cultures, so that our words and actions will tell everyone that they are precious in your sight. Amen.

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

Then little children were being brought to Jesus in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them, blessed them and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response-**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reflection

The gospel story we just heard from Matthew is also repeated in Mark's and Luke's gospels. This means that this story is very important. Jesus loved children and didn't want anyone-not even his disciples to prevent them from coming to him. Jesus wanted every child to know that he loves them and that they matter. Sadly, there have been times when adults-even in Catholic schools-have not shown Jesus' love to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and have made them feel like they didn't matter. We will now watch a video about a woman named Phyllis. When Phyllis was six years old and was just starting school, something happened that made her feel that she didn't matter. The video will explain why we wear orange shirts on this day. **Video- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll1pUrK29MM&feature=youtu.be>**



St. Joseph's Residential School
Stories - YouTube

There are a great deal of stories that the Residential School has left in its wake, and most are not pleasant. The problem we have today is not many people know about what it was like. Jonathan ...
www.youtube.com

Penitential Rite

Though you probably have never stopped to count, there are seven times during Mass that we ask God for forgiveness for the things we have done wrong. That's how important saying sorry and asking for forgiveness is. God will always forgive us, but God asks us to make up for the things we have done wrong. Today, we will tell God that we are sorry for the way that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit like Phyllis have been treated by the Church. The response to each statement is *Lord, have mercy*.

For the times we have made First Nations, Métis, and Inuit feel like they didn't matter. Lord, have Mercy. **Response-Lord, have Mercy.**

For the times we have treated First Nations, Métis, and Inuit as if they were not precious in God's sight. Lord, have Mercy. **Response-Lord, have Mercy.**

For the times that we have not treated First Nations, Métis, and Inuit with the respect and dignity they deserve as beloved children of God. Lord, have Mercy. **Response-Lord, have Mercy.**

Loving God, we are sorry that we have not always loved our neighbour as ourself, especially when we have not loved our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit brothers and sisters the way we should. Forgive us and strengthen us that through our words and actions we may show that we are truly sorry for our actions. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Optional: Sign of Peace

As a sign of our oneness in Jesus Christ, as children of God in our cultures, let us take a moment to exchange a sign of peace.

Let us now pray the great prayer of forgiveness that Jesus taught us, using the words he gave us:
Our Father who art in heaven...

Orange Hand Activity

We have asked all students to trace their hand on orange paper and then write on it one thing they can do “love your neighbour as yourself.” When you go back to your classroom, your teacher will help you to post these hands around the room. They will help remind us to love each other as Jesus wants us to. I would now like to call up one student from each grade to read what he/she has written on his/her hand.

Closing Prayer

God of all nations, we thank you for the gift of all your children. On this day, we especially thank you for the gift of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. Help us to love our neighbour who comes to us from every culture, and to love them as ourself, so that everyone at our school would know that they matter, that they are important in your eyes, loved by us and by you. We make our prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless us: Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.