

Sample Prayer Service Mother's Day

Introduction:

Student Reader 1: Welcome to everyone, especially our mothers and visitors.

Acknowledgment to Country

Let us start our prayer service with the Sign of the Cross. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Today we come together to honour and remember mothers and to give thanks for them. We are grateful that God chose to give us life through our mothers, and that our mothers received the gift of life from God's hands and gave it to us.

Student Reader 2: We thank you God, for the warmth they give our home, for the cuts and bruises they make well, for the ideas they give us when we don't have anything to do, for all the times they talk and listen to us and for the ways they make peace when we are unhappy with each other. We thank them for seeing the good in us that we sometimes don't see in ourselves.

[Three candles set up at the front of the prayer space. Three students are chosen to light the candles as another student reads.]

Lighting of the 3 Candles

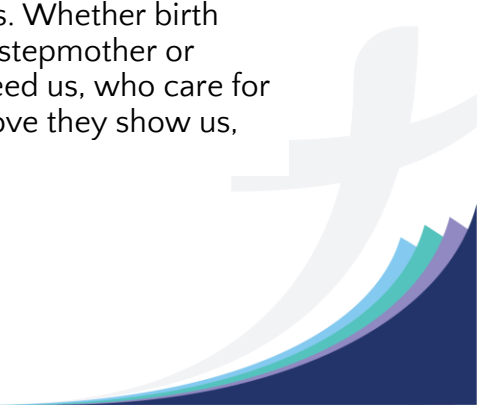
Student Reader 3: We light our 3 candles, as we remember the head, heart and hands of those we call 'mother'.

Student Reader 3: Our first candle honours the innate wisdom with which mothers guide their children ... *(One of the group lights the 'head' candle in the prayer space.)*

Student Reader 3: Our second candle honours their loving hearts which never cease to believe and hope ... *(One of the group lights the 'heart' candle)*

Student Reader 3: Our third candle honours our mothers' capable hands which nurture and comfort ... *(One of the group lights the 'hands' candle)*

Student Reader 3: We thank God for the women who are raising us. Whether birth mum, adopted mum, foster mum, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else. We thank God for those women who hold us and feed us, who care for us and kiss away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they show us, and that they are pleased to be called our mums.
Please join in as we sing our opening song.



Song

Suggestion: These Hands by Andrew Chinn (*Together as One*)

Opening Prayer

Student Reader 4:

Nurturing God,

You are the Eternal Life-Giver.

Teach us how to recognise, protect and encourage new life as it develops so that, with you, we may create a better world for all people.

We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Scripture Reading (John 19:25-27)

(This Gospel text could be acted out as a mime by a group of students)

Student Reader 5: We will now listen to a reading from the Gospel according to John. In this reading, Jesus asks the apostle John to make a place for Mary in his home. In this final act of love before Jesus dies on the cross, he gives us a beautiful example of the need to care for our mums always.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

By the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing next to her, Jesus said to his mother, "Women, this is your son." He then said to the disciple, "This is your mother". From then on, the disciple made a place for her in his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader/Teacher: We know that God always listens to us when we pray and so we bring our prayers before God.

Student 1: For all mums whose children have grown up and moved on. Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 2: For new mums experiencing changes they could not predict. Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.



Student 3: For pregnant women who will soon be mums. Grant them patience and good health in the coming months.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 4: For mums who face the demands of single parenthood. Grant them strength and wisdom.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 5: For mums who are raising their children in poverty. Grant them relief and justice.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 6: For step-mums. Grant them patience, understanding and love.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 7: For mums who are separated from their children. Grant them faith and hope.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 8: For mums who are with God, may they know everlasting peace.

Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Student 9: For all our prayers we pray together to Mary our Mother by saying “Hail Mary.....”

Leader/ Teacher: Today we are recognising Mother’s Day. Let us remind ourselves that nothing can be more strengthening than a mother’s love for her child. And no love could be greater than Mary’s love for her son, Jesus.

All: Amen

Reflection

Suggestion:

A Child’s Angel.

[Read by two senior students (**Narrator** and **God**) and a junior student (**Child**)]

Once upon a time there was a child ready to be born.



So one day the child asked God:

They tell me you are sending me to earth tomorrow

But how am I to live there

Being so small and helpless?

Among many angels, I chose one for you.

She will be waiting for you

And take care of you.

But tell me, here in Heaven,

I don't do anything else but sing and

Smile, that's enough for me to be happy.

Your angel will sing for you and

Will smile for you every day.

And you will feel your angel's love and be happy.

And how am I going to be able

To understand when people talk to me

If I don't know the language that they use?

Your angel will tell you the

Most beautiful and sweet words you will

Ever hear, and with much patience and care,

Your angel will teach you how to speak.

And what am I going to do

when I want to talk to you?

Your angel will place your hands together

And will teach you how to pray.

I've heard that on earth there may be troubling things.

Who will protect me?

Your angel will defend you

Even if it means risking its life.

But I will always be sad because

I will not see you anymore.

Your angel will always talk to you about me

And teach you the way

For you to come back to me,



Even though I will always be next to you.

At that moment there was much peace in Heaven,

But voices from earth could already be heard,

And the child in a hurry asked softly:

Oh God, if I am about to leave now,

Please tell me my angel's name.

Your angel's name is of no importance,

You will call your angel:

Mum.

Blessing for Mothers

Reader: Student/Teacher

Could all our mothers and significant people who are visiting with us today please stand?

Bless all who 'mother' and bring new life in any way, these 'mothers' who teach and guide, who encourage and heal.

Invite them to the table of your eternal feast, these 'mothers' who feed and nurture the life that has been entrusted to them.

Embrace them warmly in the intimacy of your love, these 'mothers' who embrace with affection those who are helpless and dependent.

Bless them today with all good things: with health, with laughter, with joy and with love, with pride in their 'children' and the support of many friends.

May all 'mothers' who have nurtured life in others be themselves nurtured one day in your strong embrace, there, for all eternity, to rejoice with their families and friends.

All: Amen

Let us end our prayer service today with the Sign of the Cross. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Final Song

Could be a hymn or a popular song.

Suggestion:

- 'A', you're Adorable (The Alphabet Song). Led by junior students, sung by the whole school.
- Mom- Meghan Trainor

Reader: Leader/Principal



This draws our prayer service to a close. We thank you for coming and for always being there to support your children and our school community.

