

CSW 2024 LITURGICAL SERVICE

Catholic Schools Communities of Service

Welcome Leader 1.

Good morning, everyone. It is brilliant so many of you have gathered to launch CSW 2024. We gather as a diocesan Faith Community to reflect, pray and celebrate all that Catholic Schools represent and achieve as centres of Faith and Excellence.

A teacher visiting Primary schools tells the story of how she asked a class she visited this question. "Who came first Adam or Eve?" A young pupil put his hand up to say "God made Adam first" Our visitor said that in the Bible God first created Adam and only afterwards decided to make Eve form one of Adam's ribs. The student raised his arm in triumph saying "There, I was right all along. Adam came first. Wow!"

His teacher then said to the visitor "Well that should come as no surprise. After all his own name is Adam!"

Someone else then quipped "God made Adam and He looked at him and thought "I can do better than that" so He made Eve!

Our schools are places and communities with service as our key mission and value. Each of us has a special role to play and this annual gathering helps refresh our commitment to live by the values of the Gospel. Jesus is truly our Teacher, our Master.

As we are Joined by Bishop Router and Fr O Neill, We sing our opening hymn. Do join our choir from St Pius 10th Magherafelt as we sing our hymn "As I have done for you."

Opening Hymn

As I have done for you D Schutte

I, your Lord and Master,
now become your servant.
I who made the moon and stars
will kneel to wash your feet.
This is My commandment:
to love as I have loved you.
Kneel to wash each other's feet
as I have done for you.

All the world will know
you are My disciples
by the love that you offer,
the kindness you show.
You have heard the voice of God
in the words that I have spoken.
You beheld Heaven's glory
and have seen the face of God.

I, your Lord and Master,
now become your servant.

I who made the moon and stars
will kneel to wash your feet.
This is My commandment:
to love as I have loved you.
Kneel to wash each other's feet
as I have done for you.

*During the Hymn Bishop Michael and
other celebrants process to Chairs.*

Bishop Michael Router

As Catholic Schools and as Servants
of the Gospel we gather to celebrate
as a Faith Community today.
Probably for most of us the first
prayer we learned was how to bless
ourselves. As we pray together
today we rightly do so

In the name of the Father, and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit
Amen

Peace be with you R/ And with
your spirit.

Opening prayer reflection Bishop Michael.

In Catholic schools, as we study and
look to Jesus Christ as our role
model and Teacher, we come to a
greater understanding of the depth
of Christian service. Jesus served
every person regardless of creed,
background, faith, social status or
age. He put faith into action by
showing all those around him how our
Heavenly Father is compassionate,
courageous and forgiving. Jesus

didn't just talk about His faith; He
lived it. We are called by faith to go
into the world to share the love of
God with all those we meet. Each
person, at every age, is called to
become Christ for another by
serving every person with a humble
heart and with a generous spirit.
Lord help us as we strive daily to live
this as our reality Amen.

Leader 2 We sit as we listen to
God's Holy Word read by a student
from Our Lady's College Greenhills,
Drogheda.

First Reading Romans 12 v3 -

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

For by the grace given me I say to
every one of you: Do not think of
yourself more highly than you ought,
but rather think of yourself with
sober judgment, in accordance with
the faith God has distributed to
each of you. For just as each of us
has one body with many members,
and these members do not all have
the same function, so in Christ we,
though many, form one body, and
each member belongs to all the
others. We have different gifts,
according to the grace given to each
of us. If your gift is prophesying,
then prophesy in accordance with
your faith; if it is serving, then
serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if
it is to encourage, then give

encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord R/ Thanks be to God

Leader 1. In response we all sing with the choir "Here I am Lord "

Hymn Here I am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

Leader 2

Gospel: John 13:1-15 St John the Baptist College Students will now act out a series of tableaux as the Gospel is read to us. Please remain seated.

Celebrant

A reading from St John's Gospel.

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him,

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid

aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel.

Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.

He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"

Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand."

Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not every one of you."

For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "You are not all clean."

When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"

You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

For I have given you an example that you also should do as I have done to you.

The Gospel of the Lord R/ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader 1. Three Schools will now explain to us how they as communities of faith reach out in service and love as Jesus asked

Each school will place a symbol of this service at the front of the Altar. *St Joseph's College Coalisland who have a strong outreach to Zambia*

Speaker Reads and then explains Symbol

We all sing together

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born
That Jesus Christ is born

Leader 1. St Ciaran's College Ballygawley who are largely involved with support for Africa

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born
That Jesus Christ is born

Leader 1. St Josephs Grammar School Donaghmore who work each week with their local Primary school and Care-home.

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere

Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born
That Jesus Christ is born

Leader 2

**We will listen to a harp
Instrumental Reflection behind
Reader Both students from St
Joseph's College Coalisland We
invite you all to read from the
Card you were given on arrival**

CALLED TO SERVE

Dear God, we come into your loving presence each with our own story & experiences. You reach out to hug and welcome us. Source of all life and wonder, you are a God who dances, creates and laughs. You take delight in each and every one of us. Jesus speaks of You as "Abba, Daddy", knowing the number of hairs on our heads and delighting in answering our prayers and needs. We are now charged with being His voice, face, hands and feet. Help us to know Him and to recognise Him in the faces of those we meet in daily life. "As I have done for you, you must do for others". He cared so much for all who came to Him, so may we now reach out and serve Him in those who need His love, healing and understanding. Help us to love especially those we find hard or difficult to know or like. Called to be His servants, may we follow Jesus

as washers of feet and servants of the Gospel and Kingdom. Amen

Leader 2 : Please take your card home and pray it each morning Maybe keep it by your bed. We invite Bishop Michael to speak to us now.

Leader 1.

Prayers in response to our sharing follow. Each prayer is linked to the CSW 24 daily themes for living a life of service. Our Readers are students from Our Ladys College Greenhills and Bellurgan National School. After each prayer we will all sing the short Taize Chant "O Lord hear our prayer "

Prayer 1 We serve in our School Community

Lord, you have blessed us by giving us our school community of faith with service to all. Help us to always make the most of this precious gift in life as we journey together. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Response Taize chant. **O Lord hear our prayer**

Oh, Lord hear our prayer,
Oh, Lord hear our prayer.
When I call,
Answer me.

Oh, Lord hear our prayer,
Oh, Lord hear our prayer.
Come and listen to me.

**Prayer 2 We serve in our
community of Family and our Local
community.**

Lord, the Apostles asked you to
deepen their faith. As we journey
together and reach out to others,
deepen our faith in your love and
care, and help us to see the face of
the Risen Jesus in others always.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Response Taize chant. **O Lord hear
our prayer**

Oh, Lord hear our prayer,
Oh, Lord hear our prayer.
When I call,
Answer me.

Oh, Lord hear our prayer,
Oh, Lord hear our prayer.
Come and listen to me.

**Prayer3 We serve in in our
community of Friends**

Lord, Jesus had friends who he loved
to visit and chat with like Martha,
Mary and Lazarus. Like Jesus, we
draw support and strength from loyal
and good friends. Help us to be a
true friend and to share and serve
all we can daily. We ask this in
Jesus' name. Amen.

Response Taize chant. **O Lord hear
our prayer**

Oh, Lord hear our prayer,
Oh, Lord hear our prayer.
When I call,
Answer me.

Oh, Lord hear our prayer,
Oh, Lord hear our prayer.
Come and listen to me.

**Prayer 4. We serve in Community
of Faith**

Lord, Your Spirit lives in our hearts
and speaks quietly to us when we
face choices. Help us listen and be
guided so as to be true followers of
Jesus. Help us to imitate the actions
of Jesus at His Last Supper and
together let us be real washers of
feet seeking to serve rather than be
served. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Response Taize chant. **O Lord hear
our prayer**

Oh, Lord hear our prayer,
Oh, Lord hear our prayer.
When I call,
Answer me.

Oh, Lord hear our prayer,
Oh, Lord hear our prayer.
Come and listen to me.

Bishop Michael : We thank God for
the people who love us and for all
those who help us. As we start

Catholic Schools week 2024, we ask God to bless all our school communities. May we live daily the example the Lord set for us all and as Easter People may we know Him through meeting Him daily in our love and service for all we encounter. Through Christ our Lord Amen.

Leader 1:

Students from St Joseph's High School Crossmaglen will now lead us in our Blessing. Let's join them in asking God to bless us for our continued journey. *(Pause)* We all pray with them

May the Lord bless you and take care of you; *(Bring hands, head and body down into low bow, palms facing down).*

May the Lord be kind and gracious to you; *(Bring hands up above head level and stretch them outward with palms open).*

May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace. *(Bring palms together and bow head slightly).*

(Bishop Michael makes the Sign of the cross as he prays)

May the Blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit come down upon you and remain with you now and always all / Amen.

Leader 2

Before our closing Hymn we thank all of you for attending here today. We thank you for your charitable envelope donations which as usual will be used to support school projects in Africa. Pictures of the African ministry of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters in Africa will be shown on the screens as we sing the closing hymn.

The organizing Group greatly appreciate all our schools who kindly participated in doing drama, music, prayers and readings.

We thank Bishop Michael for joining and leading us, We thank sincerely Fr Eugene O'Neill Parish Priest and the Parish here in Coalisland for their welcome and hosting of our Liturgy today.

As you leave we invite you to take home your prayer-card to remind you of today and our time together.

We stand now for our Closing Hymn is "The Servant King by Graham Kendrick. A Safe journey home.

The Servant King

Verse 1

From heaven You came, helpless Babe
Entered our world, Your glory veiled;
Not to be served but to serve
And give Your life that we might live

Chorus

This is our God, the Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King

Verse 2

There in the garden of tears
My heavy load He chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn
'Yet not my will but Yours,' He said

Verse 3

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice;
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered

Verse 4

So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives enthrone Him;
Each other's needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving