

BEⁱⁿ solidarity

Contents:

- Introductory note to the Prayer Leader.
- Full running sheet of the prayer with notes and directions (copy as needed for those reading or doing some other action).
- Prayer handout sheet to be copied for all participants.

Introduction - for the Prayer Leader

Dear Prayer Leader,

Thanks for leading this prayer based on the concept of **Be in Solidarity**.

This prayer forms part of a series of prayers that are based on the Caritas BE MORE campaign. All of the prayers in the series carry an underlying theme of 'Mission' – the challenge to all Christian people to engage in the mission of Jesus in the world.

The prayer is intended for use with staff groups in a Catholic school community but can be easily adapted to other contexts.

Each of the prayers in the series follows a common structure of:
Gather - Listen - Respond - Go Forth

Be in Solidarity:

Creating the space:

Where possible, arrange chairs in a circle or semi-circle around a prayer focus point. Try to create different heights in your prayer focus – even if you conceal a book or box under your cloth to create a different height. Items to incorporate in your prayer focus:

- ✓ Red, green and yellow cloths
- ✓ Three candles (+ matches to light the candles)
- ✓ Bible – open at Luke chapter 10 (*a book stand or small easel is ideal to display the Bible*)
- ✓ Cross or crucifix
- ✓ Symbol for this week: A paper chain of figures holding hands

You will also need:

- ✓ A recording of reflective music
- ✓ Copies of the prayer outline for readers.
- ✓ Copies of the prayer handout for the group.
- ✓ Copies of the [Be More Bio of Mother Teresa. Downloaded from Caritas Australia and print p. 6](#)



<u>Gather</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome, introduction & preparation to pray• Lighting of candles• Opening Prayer	3 candle lighters
<u>Listen</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Gospel reading	2 readers
<u>Respond</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Be More</i> bio• Silence• PowerPoint	
<u>Go Forth</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prayer• Blessing	

NB: Sections identified as 'Leader' may be divided amongst different people but it is helpful to have a recognisable leader of the prayer.

The structure and ideas included are just suggestions. Please feel free to modify or add to the wording to make the experience more personal and relevant for your staff. Adding you own touches will not only make the experience more enriching for you personally, but also for the rest of your group.

Approximate time required: 20 mins

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We Gather

The leader welcomes those present and acknowledges the gift of coming together in prayer.

Leader: Our prayer today continues our focus on ways in which we might engage in the mission of Jesus, calling us to *Be More*. In today's prayer we are called to *Be in Solidarity* – to stand shoulder to shoulder with the voiceless, the powerless, the homeless and the helpless.

Let's pause before we begin and take a moment of silence to clear our thoughts and open our hearts to this time together.

(Ring a chime or bell then pause for two minutes of silence. Ring the chime again to end the silence)

With Christians around the world, we begin our prayer as they all do ...

All: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Candle lighter 1: As we gather here in your name,
Open our minds to know your voice. *(light 'head' candle)*

Candle lighter 2: Open our hands to do your work. *(light 'hands' candle)*

Candle lighter 3: And open our hearts to hold your Spirit. *(light 'heart' candle)*

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God who is three in one,
Your very being speaks to us of community.
From the beginning you have called your people
to be in right relationship with one another.
Teach us what it means to be one with you
and one in solidarity with your lowly ones.
We make this prayer through Mary, mother of all. Amen

We Listen

Leader: The first step to being *in Solidarity* is to recognise the connection that exists between us all. As human beings, we are all part of a global family.

The things that we have in common are far greater than the things that separate us.

Jesus reminds us that the greatest commandment of all is two-fold: to love God and to love neighbour.

(Luke 10:25-37) The two readers must 'bounce off' each other so that the reading does not become disjointed.

Reader 1:	A reading from the gospel according to Luke.	Reader 1:	But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him
Reader 2:	A lawyer stood up and, to test Jesus, asked,	Reader 2:	was moved with compassion when he saw him.
Reader 1:	'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'	Reader 1:	He went up to him and bandaged his wounds,
Reader 2:	He said to him, 'What is written in the Law?'	Reader 2:	pouring oil and wine on them.
Reader 1:	What is your reading of it?'	Reader 1:	He then lifted him onto his own mount
Reader 2:	He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart,	Reader 2:	and took him to an inn and looked after him.
Reader 1:	with all your soul,	Reader 1:	Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper
Reader 2:	with all your strength,	Reader 2:	"Look after him, and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have."
Reader 1:	and with all your mind,	Reader 1:	Which of these three,
Reader 2:	and your neighbour as yourself.'	Reader 2:	do you think,
Reader 1:	Jesus said to him, 'You have answered right,	Reader 1:	proved himself a neighbour
Reader 2:	do this and life is yours.'	Reader 2:	to the man who fell into the bandits' hands?'
Reader 1:	But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus,	Reader 1:	He replied, 'The one who showed pity towards him.'
Reader 2:	'And who is my neighbour?'	Reader 2:	Jesus said to him, 'Go,
Reader 1:	In answer, Jesus said,	Reader 1:	and do the same yourself.'
Reader 2:	'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho		(pause...)
Reader 1:	and fell into the hands of bandits;	Reader 2:	The gospel, the Good News of the Lord.
Reader 2:	they stripped him,	All:	Thanks be to God.
Reader 1:	beat him and then made off,		
Reader 2:	leaving him half dead.		
Reader 1:	Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road,		
Reader 2:	but when he saw the man,		
Reader 1:	he passed by on the other side.		
Reader 2:	In the same way a Levite who came to the place		
Reader 1:	saw him,		
Reader 2:	and passed by on the other side.		

Leader: This gospel story is a very familiar one. Its familiarity can make us overlook the powerful message that is as relevant today as it was in first century Palestine. The lawyer's question is the very same question we must confront today, 'Who is my neighbour?'

I invite you now to spend a few moments in silence. Sit with that question, 'Who is my neighbour?' ... who is it who calls you to see their need? ... who is the unexpected one reaching out a hand of help towards you?

(Ring a chime or bell then pause for two or three minutes of silence. Ring the chime again to end the silence)

(Optional) Leader invites group members to share something of their reflection on the reading or their own experience.

We Respond

Leader: You each have a copy of the Be More Bio for Mother Teresa – perhaps our greatest example in recent times of one who stood in solidarity. Take a few moments to read the bio and reflect on the suggestions of ways in which you can 'Be More'.

(Allow time for group to read and reflect.)

We Go Forth

Leader: Let's place our prayers from this time together before God.

All: God of the marginalised,
Through your prophets and through your Word
you have called us into solidarity with the broken and the humble.
Open our eyes to all our neighbours in need:
in our families;
in our school;
in our country;
and in our world.
We ask this through your Holy Spirit, who transforms the world. Amen.

Leader: We conclude with our blessing...

All: As we go about our day, O God;
As we strive to walk with Jesus as people in solidarity.
Remind us that we are the love of Christ,
Who is with us always.

May your grace, mercy and peace,
Bless us, keep us and transform us all this day,
Now and forever. Amen.

We Gather

All: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The *Head, Heart* and *Hands* candles are lit.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God who is three in one,
Your very being speaks to us of community.
From the beginning you have called your people
to be in right relationship with one another.
Teach us what it means to be one with you
and one in solidarity with your lowly ones.
We make this prayer through Mary, mother of all.
Amen

We Listen (Luke 10:25-37)

A lawyer stood up and, to test Jesus, asked, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.'

Jesus said to him, 'You have answered right, do this and life is yours.' But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' In answer, Jesus said,

'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of bandits; they stripped him, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead.

Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up to him and bandaged his

wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him onto his own mount and took him to an inn and looked after him.

Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper "Look after him, and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have."

Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the bandits' hands?' He replied, 'The one who showed pity towards him.'

Jesus said to him, 'Go, and do the same yourself.'

All: Thanks be to God.

We Respond

Be More Bio for Mother Teresa.

Reflection on art images.

We Go Forth

All: God of the marginalised,
Through your prophets and through your Word
you have called us into solidarity
with the broken and the humble.
Open our eyes to all our neighbours in need:
in our families;
in our school;
in our country;
and in our world.
We ask this through your Holy Spirit,
who transforms the world. Amen.

Blessing:

All: As we go about our day, O God;
As we strive to walk with Jesus as people in solidarity.
Remind us that we are the love of Christ,
Who is with us always.

May your grace, mercy and peace,
Bless us, keep us and transform us all this day,
Now and forever. Amen.

BEⁱⁿ
solidarity

"To the world, you may be just one person,
but to one person you may be the world.
Make yourself a blessing to someone."
Josephine Billings