

Charism of Peace

Contents:

- Prayer leader introduction note.
- Prayer handout sheet.
- Prayer outline.
- Handout content (for reference only)

Dear Prayer Leader,

Thank-you for leading this prayer on the charism of *Peace*.

A charism is like a living gift. It is a way of living or doing, inspired by Jesus, which links us to God. As you pray with your staff, we hope that you will develop a clearer appreciation of how each charism can impact on your life and the lives of those around you.

In this prayer module, your charism is linked to an Aboriginal spirituality and to the prayer style of Contemplative Prayer.

Gathering

Each prayer starts with a brief ritual that serves to engage and focus everyone to the spirit of the prayer. As well as being a means of focusing your staff, it is also a way to add another level of meaning and understanding to the charism.

The ritual for your prayer is a bit different as the focus of the prayer is silence and contemplative reflection with a 'silence' as the emphasis for the welcome. It omits the normal welcoming words and starts with the lighting of the candles. The quieter and more peaceful you can make this time the better. This prayer may be a perfect opportunity to consider taking your prayer gathering outside.

Reading and Reflection

The reading is John 14:27. The reflection material invites us to consider what it means to live with the peace of Jesus. Because the focus is on contemplation, this section will involve not reading out loud, but handing out the reading and reflection for people to read themselves, in silence.

Prayer

The prayer style is Contemplative Prayer. It involves spending time in quiet, reflective thought and prayer with God.

Surprises

Add to the experience of the prayer by continuing to bring your prayer's charism to people's attention during the week. Here are few ideas to get you started.

- *Place a "Peace" flash card on each staff member's desk/ pigeon hole.*
- *Post to their home address a flash card with "Peace" written on it.*
- *Hang a "Peace" sign in the staff car park.*
- *Write Peace messages, in chalk, around the school.*

The structure and ideas we have 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 staff.

Best of luck.

Peace

We Listen

Peace I bequeath to you,
My own peace I give you,
A peace the world cannot give; this is my gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27 (JB)

We Pause to Pray

Dadirri invites you, simply, to be present.

Clear your mind of other thoughts....
Settle into a feeling of peace.
Be still and silent, and listen....



Image: Sunrise – by skeeze from Pixabay

***When I experience Dadirri, I am made whole again.
I can sit on the riverbank or walk through the trees;
even if someone close to me has passed away,
I can find my peace in this silent awareness.
There is no need of words. A big part of Dadirri is listening.***
Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann

We Reflect

In Hebrew the word *shalom* is often translated to mean peace.
Not surprisingly it is also one of the many Hebrew names for God.

Tracing it back to its core meaning *shalom* is better described as *completeness, fulfillment, wellbeing* - rather than an absence of conflict. Shalom is a peace which is more a "state of being".

When we speak of "*the peace of Jesus*" it is this root meaning which we are looking at. It is not to be confused with acting peacefully.

Jesus' *peace* is a "Shalom", a peace which brings a total well being and wholeness. The people of God have always been promised this "peace".

Before his crucifixion Jesus promised the gift that is peace, saying, "**My peace I bequeath you; my own peace I give you**" (John 14:27).

In a life which was anything but peaceful, it was Jesus' deep experience of God at his centre which gave him strength and a calm energy which sustained him through all that unfolded.

As we do, Jesus felt fear and anger, sadness and disappointment.

But throughout the most difficult and stressful times of his ministry, we sense a man whose inner-strength is founded in deep and trusting peace. It is this gift which we are offered.

A peace that leaves our hearts untroubled.
A peace that leaves no place for fear.
A peace that is *completeness, fulfillment and wellbeing* ...
A peace that is God's gift to those who trust.

Adapted from: Binz SJ, The names of Jesus. Mystic (CT): Twenty-Third Publications; 2004.

We Respond

In what areas of my own life am I in need of peace?

What new thoughts / feelings linger for you in the prayer today?

Continue to discipline yourself to sit with a sense of stillness – let the 100 things in your mind pass just for the moment....be at peace.

Closing Prayer

As we go about our day O God,
As we strive to walk with Jesus
Remind us that we are the face 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

Words of Wisdom

Peace is not a relationship of nations. It is a condition of mind brought about by a serenity of soul. Peace is not merely the absence of war. It is also a state of mind. Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people.

Jawaharlal Nehru

"If you want to work for world peace, go home and love your families."

Mother Teresa

Peace

Using the notes:

Sections to be read by the leader are marked with Leader: at the beginning.

Texts in bold type are notes and guiding information for leaders and provide a guide for what to do or say.

Resources:

Handout sheets
Head, Heart, Hands candles
Staff candle
Matches
Prayer intentions book

Setting up for Prayer:

- Prepare a prayerful space suitable for your staff to gather around. Have ready...
 - The 'Head', 'Hands' & 'Heart' candles to light in the opening prayer.
 - Your staff candles.
 - The prayer intentions book.
- Have the 'Quickfire Prayer Cards' ready to distribute at the end of the prayer time.
- Your handout sheets are close by
 - Handout - Peace
- Reflective music is playing quietly before people arrive.

We Gather

Leader:

In silence start the reflective music.

As you light each of the candles say:-

Our prayer journey this week is on the charism of peace.

As we gather, let us begin with the sign of the cross.

God of Peace,

As we gather here in Your name,

Open our minds to know Your voice.

(Light 'head' candle)

Open our hands to do Your work.

(Light 'hands' candle)

And open our hearts to hold Your Spirit.

(Light 'heart' candle)

Amen

Leader:

Sit with your hand out for a moment in the quiet.

Be attentive to your breathing...slow it down a little as you settle.

Focus on the image.

We Listen

Leader:

The Indigenous People of Australia have a depth of spirituality that can enrich our non-indigenous spirits in so many ways.

Our reflection is by *Miriam - Rose Ungunmerr Baumann* an artist, a tribal elder and Principal of St Francis Xavier School, Daly River. It is titled Dadirri.

Access the beautiful visual reflection on YouTube: https://youtu.be/tow2tR_ezL8

We Respond

Individual Prayer

Leader:

The remainder of today's prayer is an opportunity to experience prayer in the mould of Dadirri. I invite you, simply, to be present.

Clear your mind of other thoughts.....

Settle into a feeling of peace.

Be still and silent, and listen....

Look again at your focus card and just be aware of the image on it and the candles in our prayer space.

Wait a few minutes while people read the scripture.....

Allow a longer time for people to read and contemplate.....

We Go Forth

Leader:

As we pause now before our prayer time ends,
we stop to light our staff/school candle.

(Light the staff/school candle)

We pause in silence to pray for the intentions we have added to our staff intentions book....

(place it into the prayer space)

and those who are already on its pages.

We add to these the prayers that are known only in our hearts....

(Allow for silent prayer)

Closing Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together...

As we go about our day O God,
As we strive to walk with Jesus,
Remind us that we are the face 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.

All: Amen