

## Running Sheet

XXXXXXXXXX College  
Liturgy to Celebrate the life of XXXXXXXX

**Stage Decoration.** In the centre, to the front, the "hands" sheet is draped over the edge. On it, centre, is XXXXXXX's photograph. To the left of the photo is the large bowl of water on a small stand. A smaller basket of flower petals is beside it. The school candle holder is to the right of the photo. Possibly other flowers, balloons for extra colour.

Coloured cloth is draped along the front of the stage.

Palm trees to the back to form a more intimate circle. Large Cross in the centre of these.

Lectern on the left, nearer the steps.

In front of the stage are 6 desks/tables evenly spaced. They are covered with coloured table cloths. Paper hands are pinned to the cloths.

The helium balloon will be placed on the floor, in front of the photo.

The six tables at the front are mirrored at the back of the building, behind the last row of seats.

**Entrance Procession:**

- School Candle
- 12 Candles
- 12 baskets
- 12 bowls
- Song: Seasons of Love or Love Changes Everything or Circle of Life

Students stand in groups of three, one candle, one basket, one bowl, six groups on each side of the assembly, three to the front of the cross aisle, three to the back.

School candle bearer stands in the cross aisle, centre of the assembly. Once the music starts, school candle bearer moves towards the front, front six groups of three students move across middle aisle and process down the aisle to the front. The six groups of three students who are on the back side of the middle aisle process along the middle aisle and peel off at the centre aisle to go to the back, not front.

They place a candle, basket and bowl on each of the tables.

Leader follows the last of the students to the centre aisle and then proceeds to the stage behind the front 18.

**Leader waits until music is finished, then :**

**Welcome:** Parents / Community

**Statement of Belief:**

Leader calls for students to Place Symbols of XXXX's contribution to XXXXXX community: e.g. samples of writing, art from sacred space, Literature Circle, Symbols of friendship, sample statements from prayer room which will be given to parents.

Leader briefly explains Symbols as they are placed.

**Opening Prayer: By a teacher? Student?**

First Reading: Footprints

Response: The Lord is my Shepherd.

**Gospel:** Teacher? Student?

**Eulogy:**

**Prayers of Petition:**

Leader: Jesus taught us that God always loves each one of us without conditions attached. We read in the scriptures that like a mother, God will never forget us, even if we find it hard to believe in that love.

As we remember today XXXX's life and what he/she meant to us and our XXXXXXcommunity, let us turn to the God who loves each one of us with our needs and prayers. Our response to the prayers is: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 1: We remember XXXXX and pray that having passed through the valley of death, he/she has now found peace and hope at last. Lord hear us.

Reader 2: We pray for XXXX's parents and family: that they will find the courage, strength and hope to rebuild their lives while cherishing her memory always. Lord hear us.

Reader 3: We pray for XXXXXX's special friends who experienced her unique personality: that they will always remember the precious gift their friendship was to her. Lord hear us.

Reader 4: Let us pray for ourselves, that we will always remember that we are loved and that there is always someone who can help us. Lord hear us.

Reader 5: Let us pray for our XXXXX community: that we will always look out for each other and remind each other that each of us is precious and loved. Lord hear us.

Reader 6: We remember all who die today, especially those who die feeling they are unloved or forgotten: that at the moment of their death they will see and know that God has not forgotten them. Lord hear us.

Leader: Thank you, God, for the gifts we have received from XXXXX. We believe that even now he/she has come to know that she is loved by us and by you. We ask for the strength to go on with our own lives in the knowledge that you will never abandon us. We make this prayer in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

**The Jesus Prayer:**

Leader invites all the community to join hands and say together the prayer Jesus gave us.

**Sign of Peace/Consolation:**

Leader invites the community to give each other a sign of peace, or hug.

**Explanations for Ritual Blessing:**

Leader calls Yr 11/12 students to take their places at the tables. Leader explains that the blessing is an affirmation of life and hope. Then gives directions to students regarding their coming up for the blessing ritual. Teachers take their place at the front, and back of centre aisle (4 teachers) and direct students to whichever table is free.

Ritual Blessing:

Affirmations for slips of paper given out at the blessing.  
Strip of paper with inspirational words on it??  
"Care for your friends (and trust in God)" said to each student on receiving the blessing. All will be well..... and all will be well.  
Then blessed with water/branch.  
*Hands* by Jewel played. Possibly also *Love Changes Everything*.

God never gives us a burden that's too great for us to carry.

I am loved and capable of loving others.

Who do I need to tell today that I love them?

God forgives us no matter what we do.

God loves us no matter what we do.

Walk with God.

There is always a tomorrow.

After the darkness comes the morning light.

Death is part of the cycle of life.

God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change.

Each of us has our own path to tread. 12

It's not how long we live, it's what we do with the time we've got.

Each day is a gift.

Each day is a lesson to be learned.

We only walk this way but once.

We cannot live only for ourselves.

Love is patient and kind.

Only love is eternal.

There are three things – faith, hope and love ... and the greatest of these is love.

Settle everyone back to seats and ask for a moment of silent reflection on the words on their slip of paper.

Students return to seats.

**Closing Prayer:**

Leader: Help us, God of love, to believe that there is no pain you cannot heal, no failure that is too big to overcome. Help us in our sadness for the untimely death of XXXXX give us hope to believe that he/she has found peace and help us to believe that we are never alone. We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

**Release of Balloon:**

Leader explains the symbolism of the release of the balloon- a letting go of our grief, and moving on to create new ways XXXXXcan be present to us.

Leader explains how the students will move out to the area behind the hall, overlooking the oval and how

Leader calls up friends to "receive" Balloon. They move out to oval. Students follow.

Friends unroll crepe streamers, gently raising it and then letting it go.

Students return to the undercover area.

**Acknowledgement and Thanks:**

**Dismissal:** We have remembered XXXX and prayed for her and her family. We carry away with us today a blessing and a reminder that we need to look out for each other and remind each other that we are all loved. Let's go now in peace, knowing we have done all we could for XXXXX and able to go on with our lives remembering the gift she was to us.

Music while students move chairs- Circle of Life or Fame.

Hands  
Jewel

If I could tell the world just one thing  
it would be that we're all o.k.  
And not to worry  
cause worry is wasteful  
And unless in times like these  
I won't be made useless  
I wont be idled with dispair  
I will gather myself around my faith  
for light does the darkness most fear

My hands are small, I know,  
but they're not yours they are my own  
but they're not yours they are my own  
and I am never broken

Poverty stole your golden shoes  
but it didn't steel your laughter  
And heartache came to visit me  
but i knew it wasnt ever after

We'll fight, not out of spite  
for someone must stand up for what's right  
cause where there's a man who has no voice  
there our's shall go singing

My hands are small, i know,  
but they're not yours they are my own  
but they're not yours they are my own  
and I am never broken

In the end only kindness matters  
In the end only kindness matters

I will get down on my knees and I will pray  
I will get down on my knees and I will pray  
I will get down on my knees and I will pray

My hands are small, I know,  
but they're not yours they are my own  
but they're not yours they are my own  
and I am never broken

My hands are small, i know,  
but they're not yours they are my own  
but they're not yours they are my own  
and I am never broken  
We are never broken

We are God's eyes  
God's hands  
God's mind  
We are God's eyes  
God's hands  
God's heart  
We are God's eyes  
God's hands  
God's eyes  
God's hands  
God's hands