

'We aspire' liturgy: readers' script

Introduction

Gathering hymn

[Slide 1]



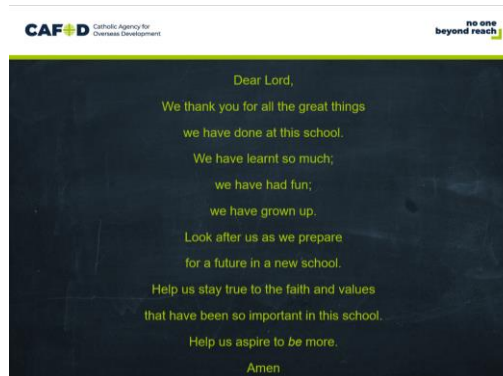
Reader 1: We gather together to celebrate our time at primary school. We are looking forward to the changes that are ahead. This is a time for reflection; it is a time for us to stop and think; it is also a time for us to say thank you and to celebrate.

Reader 2: As we think about the great times we have had at this school, we pray for courage to take up the challenges we face in the future.

Reader 3: During our time in primary school we have grown as a community based around faith in God. This faith and our experiences in this school will help us to move on to our new schools with confidence.

Opening prayer

[Slide 2]



Reader 4: We pray together:

All say: Dear Lord,
We thank you for all the great things we have done at this school.
We have learnt so much; we have had fun; we have grown up.
Look after us as we prepare for a future in a new school.
Help us stay true to the faith and values that have been so important in this school.
Help us aspire to *be* more.
Amen

Part One: Memories of building our school community

[Slide 3]



Leader: We are God's family; filled with the Holy Spirit let us pray together:

All say: **We are part of a community, we build it together.**
We aspire to be more.
We aspire to build a strong community in our school.

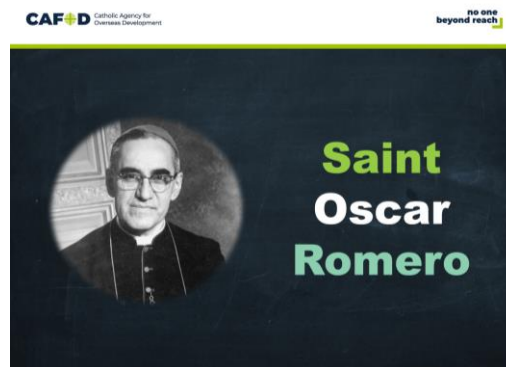
[Slide 4]



All say: **Aspire not to have more, but to be more.**

Reader 1: These are the words of St Oscar Romero.

[Slide 5]



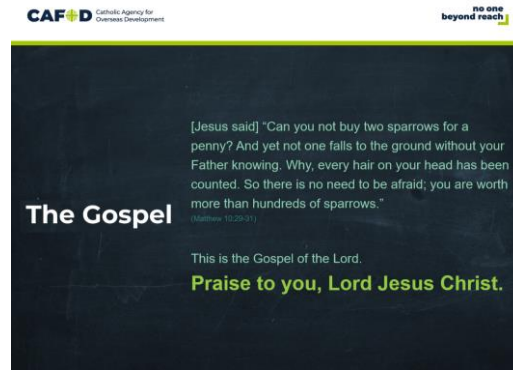
Oscar Romero was the Archbishop of El Salvador [*show El Salvador on map*] and he was murdered in 1980, for criticising the government that kept people very poor.

- Reader 2:** Oscar Romero knew that he was risking his life. And yet, like Jesus, he continued to speak out against the things he knew were wrong.
- Reader 3:** Romero tried day by day not to *have* more, but to *be* more.
- Reader 4:** Romero has inspired many people all over the world, because he tried to live the Gospel. Let's listen to part of the Gospel now. As we proclaim the Word of God, try to understand what the words mean to you and your life.

Bible reading (Matthew 10:29-31)

[A child could process in, carrying the Bible, and place it in a respectful place after reading]

[Slide 6]



Reader 5: A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew.

[Jesus said] “Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny?
And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing.
Why, every hair on your head has been counted.
So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All say: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader 1: Jesus calls each one of us by name. We are all special. The Bible tells us that God even knows the number of hairs on our heads.

Reader 2: In this school we are all important. We all work together to build a strong school community.

Reader 3: We have built this community by making friends and being playground buddies. We have become a community by sharing experiences with children of different ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Reader 4: We have also built a faith community. We have prayed together, celebrated Mass together and shared our faith. Jesus tells us we should not be afraid, we are loved and he will help our transition into a new school.

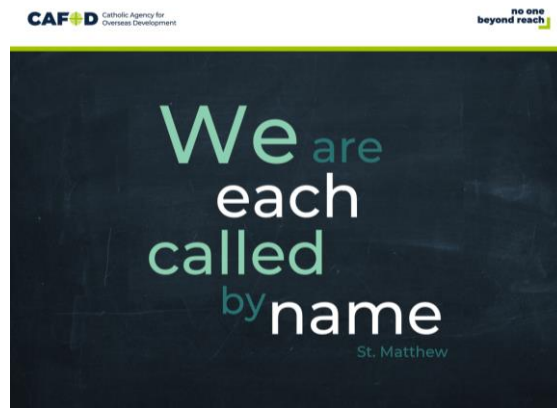
Quiet reflection time

[You may find it helpful to put on quiet background music for this time, so that it is not completely silent]

[Slides 7 and 8 - pictures of your school – to focus the reflection]

Leader: I want you to spend a minute quietly thinking about your time at this school. Think how small and nervous you were when you started school... Think of all the happy times you've had here... all the things you've learned... and the friends you've made... now take a moment to thank God for all your experiences at primary school. *[pause]*

[Slide 9]



I want you to write your name on one of the small pieces of paper/stickers provided. As you write your name, think about what you have brought to the school. When have you made someone laugh? How have you helped out? What have you added to this rich community?

One by one I want you to put your sticker onto one of the bricks on the picture of our school building being passed around. As you attach your name, think about how you, in Romero's words, have 'been more', how you have helped to build this strong school community.

As you stick your name onto the brick, **say your name out loud** so we can all hear **and if you would like, tell us one memory about school**, or one wonderful time you can remember.

[Place these at the foot of the Romero cross]

Reader 1: In this school we have aspired to be more by building a strong community.

Reader 2: As a prayer of thanksgiving for the good things we have experienced here, we light a candle.

[Light a candle next to the Romero cross]

Part Two: Memories of building a global community

[Slide 10]



Leader: Let us pray together for ourselves and for our global family:

All say: **We aspire to be more.**
We aspire to build a strong global community.
We aspire to make the world a better place.

Reader 1: St Oscar Romero was a friend of CAFOD. Like Romero, CAFOD aspires to be more.

[Slide 11]



Reader 2: CAFOD works to strengthen communities in developing countries so that they can have the basic needs in life, like food, water, health care, education and somewhere to live.

Reader 3: CAFOD's partners work with people aspiring to be more every day. They work hard together as communities, helping each other and sharing what they have with their neighbours.

[Slides 12-19 are pictures of some of CAFOD's partners, showing some of the key areas of work. Additional notes about the people in the pictures are in the teacher's notes]

Quiet reflection time

[Play some calming music]

[Slide 20]



Leader: In a moment I'll ask you to spend one minute quietly thinking about how you have helped to build a strong global community. It could be by recycling, saving energy or water, taking part in a global week at school, planting in the garden, helping others, walking to school, raising money, celebrating CAFOD Fast Day or praying for others.

Let's close our eyes now and try to keep our bodies and our minds very relaxed and still. Use this time of silence to remember how you've helped build a strong global community.

[Silence]

Leader: On the sticker write a word or draw a picture to show something you have done to help our world and God's people.

One by one, stick your word or picture to the globe being passed around. As you stick it down, say your word or explain your picture out loud so we can all hear.

[Place the globe beside the Romero cross]

Leader: As a sign of our prayer for the world and all God's people, we light a candle.

[Light a second candle next to the Romero cross]

Part Three: Looking ahead to our new schools

[Slide 21]



Leader: We are God's family; filled with the Holy Spirit we proclaim together:

All say: **We are part of a community, we build it together.**
We aspire to be more.
We aspire to build strong communities in our new schools.

Leader: The Gospel that we heard earlier told us how much God cares for us. So we need not be afraid of the future. God will be with us in our new schools. We can look forward with hope.

Soon we will have our last moment of silence together. This is a time to think: What are your hopes? What do you aspire to be in your new school? Try to think of one thing you hope to be next term.

[Silence]

[Slide 22]



Leader: We invite each of you to come forward and accept a Romero cross as a farewell gift from your primary school. May it remind you of all that you have learned and celebrated here at _____.

We pray that whenever you look at it you will be given courage to become all that you aspire to be, in your new school and in the world.

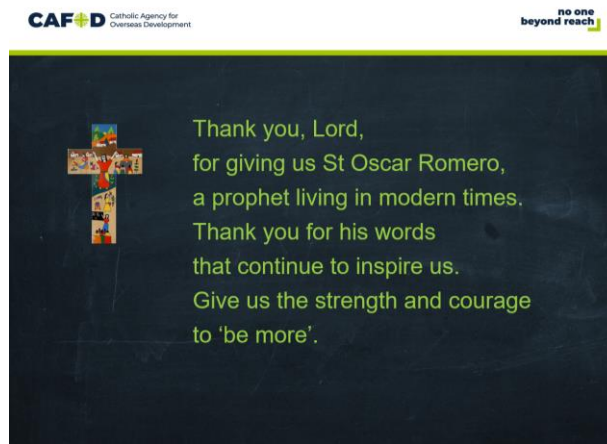
[Children come forward to receive a cross from the head teacher or class teacher, and return to their places. Quiet music could be played]

Prayers and sending out

Reader 4: Let us pray together for ourselves and our global family. In thanksgiving for the life of St Oscar Romero, we light this candle and ask him to pray for us.

[Light a third candle and place it by the Romero cross]

[Slide 23]



All say: Thank you, Lord, for giving us St Oscar Romero,
a prophet living in modern times.
Thank you for his words that continue to inspire us.
Give us the strength and courage to 'be more'.

[Slide 24]



All say: Thank you for all the wonderful things we have learnt at this school and
all the fantastic friends we have made.
Thank you for all the wonderful teachers who have worked so hard for us.

[Slide 25]



All say: Thank you for our parents who have helped us to grow up.
Care for us as your children,
and help us not to worry about the changes ahead of us.
Help us to remember that you are always with us.

[Slide 26]



All say: Help us to build a strong community in our new school.
Assist us as we try every day to be better global citizens,
thinking how our small actions can help to make the world a better place.
Amen.

Leader: May God who calls us and helps us to change our lives, bless us on our journey ahead. And may St Oscar Romero pray for us. Let us go in the peace of Christ.

All say: Thanks be to God.

Final hymn