This year’s Catholic Education Week theme in the Diocese of Sale is the ‘Year of Family Prayer’. Catholic Education Week will run from Friday, 2 May to Friday, 9 May, and will give Catholic schools throughout the diocese the opportunity to celebrate with their local communities.

The focus for the Catholic Education Week theme is based on the diocese’s focus on the ‘Year of Family Prayer’ and Family evangelisation which began on the first Sunday of Advent in December 2013 and ends at the commencement of Advent 2014.

Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Sale, Maria Kirkwood, said each of the 42 Catholic schools in the diocese offered something unique to their respective Catholic school communities.

Ms Kirkwood said the theme was particularly relevant because prayer was important in the Catholic Church. “Jesus Christ set a wonderful example for us to follow. His achievements as a man on earth and His death and resurrection give us hope of eternal life. As followers of Christ, through prayer we continue to express our faith and commitment to Him,” said Ms Kirkwood.

“In this day-and-age prayer has tended to become a casualty of the busy lives that families lead but people can pray at any time of the day — at school, in the home, or even in the car. “The power of prayer is that individually — and collectively as a Church community that is part of God’s family — prayer can provide great strength and comfort, especially at times of particular difficulty.

“I hope during Catholic Education Week that families will think about prayer and how it can strengthen their family, and even if they don’t normally pray together, consider setting aside some time each day to come together to pray. “I also hope our Catholic schools embrace this special week and celebrate with their local communities.”
The goal of Catholic Education Week is to communicate and celebrate the distinctive mission of Catholic education in the Diocese of Sale. It is an opportunity to celebrate and promote not only the great work being done in our schools but also our wonderful Catholic ethos.

Background

The audience for Catholic Education Week encompasses all those who are part of Catholic school communities, as well as those in broader community and political life. It includes:

- Staff
- Students
- Parents, grandparents and family friends
- Parishioners
- Clergy and bishops
- Local, State and Federal politicians
- Feeder school students
- Prospective students and families
- Media
- Catechists/Catholic students in State schools
- Wider community/general public

Theme

Year of Family Prayer

Timing

Our diocese will celebrate Catholic Education Week between Friday, 2 May and Friday, 9 May.

Key activities

- Leadership Eucharist and Dinner in Traralgon
- Spirit of Catholic Education Awards Nominations closed Friday, 28 March
- Catholic Education 25 Years Service Awards
Celebration ideas

A range of celebratory and promotional activities can be used during Catholic Education Week to highlight Catholic education and showcase the great things happening in Catholic schools.

**School/community liturgy**
This is a great opportunity to extend invitations to all members of the school, parish and local community.

**Shopping centre display/performance**
These may be static (student work, photos and uniforms attached to a pinboard) or active (featuring a dance, choir, instrumental or debating performance).

**Exchange visits between schools**
Secondary schools may invite Grade 6 students from feeder schools to participate in an afternoon of science or sport activities.

**Fundraising effort**
Even if you already contribute to various charities throughout the year, Catholic Education Week is an excellent week in which to focus your fundraising efforts or introduce a new fundraiser.

**Educational activities/workshops/courses**
Consider tapping into your staff or parent skill base and offering a free workshop or course to the public. If your budget permits, you may also employ a guest presenter on a topic of wide community interest (e.g. parenting teenagers or social networking).

**Open libraries**
Schools may invite parents and parishioners to tour the library and explore books and electronic resources with students.

**Guest lecturers/speakers**
Prominent or interesting past students or staff may be invited back to present a lecture for parents or speak to students.

**Slideshow or home page**
Place the theme of Catholic Education Week to appear for a few seconds on the school’s homepage and/or on the school computer system screen saver.

**Community service**
If your students’ main form of community service to date has been contributing to fundraisers, consider organising something a little more hands on. Could one of your classes visit an aged care facility to perform songs and interact with the residents? Could students read to children at the local kinder or childcare centre, or people with vision impairment? Could students assist with some garden maintenance at a local community facility? Could students make and deliver gifts for children in hospital?
Our school, along with the 41 other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Sale, will celebrate Catholic Education Week from 2 May to 9 May. The theme for this year’s celebrations is ‘Year of Family Prayer’.

As Catholic schools, we are called to do more than just pass on the faith: we are invited to translate our faith into deeds so we are truly living God’s Word.

Catholic Education Week is an opportunity for all Catholic schools to celebrate our distinctive mission and share things that are special about our schools to highlight our ethos with families, parish and the wider community.

Members of our staff will be part of the Leadership Mass and Dinner held in Traralgon on Friday, 2 May.

Our school will also hold a number of activities including … [list activities].
Media releases are a professional and proactive way of getting your message across to journalists and increasing the likelihood they will cover your story. They can be written and submitted before an event (inviting journalists to attend) or after an event (as a ready-to-publish article supplied with the best photo or photos from the event).

**Possible topics**
- Activities your school is participating in or undertaking to celebrate Catholic Education Week
- Activities that provide active and colourful photo opportunities
- Nomination of any of your staff members for a Spirit of Catholic Education Award

**The top of the page**
- Type your media release on school letterhead and head the page ‘Media Release’
- Include a headline that is short, catchy and preferably mentions your school’s name

**First (lead) paragraph**
- Must include the Who, What, When and Where

**Following (supporting) paragraphs**
- Explain the How and the Why
- Include quotes by key personnel (Principal, Subject Coordinator, parent or student representative)
- Include contact details for the relevant person at your school

**Sample text**
(Open Day—before the event)

*Name of School in Suburb / Town* will hold three Open Mornings next week to celebrate Catholic Education Week in the Diocese of Sale.

Current and prospective families, as well as members of the wider community, are invited to visit *Name of School* between 9:00am and 11:00am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Open Mornings will include a welcome address by Principal *Name of Principal*, school tours and a morning tea prepared by Senior students.

“Quote along the lines of how excited the school community is about the event,” said *Name of School Principal, Name of Principal.*
Name of School in Suburb/Town will celebrate Catholic Education Week with a number of special events starting Friday, 2 May.

The events will be held on (day and times):

The ‘Year of Family Prayer’ is the theme for Catholic Education Week which runs until Friday 9 May. The Catholic Education Week theme is based on the Diocese’s focus on the ‘Year of Family Prayer’ and Family evangelisation which began on the first Sunday of Advent in December 2013 and ends at Advent 2014.

Name of Principal from Name of School said. “Quote along the lines of how special the week is for the school and the local community and its importance on the Catholic education calendar.”

Further quotes about the wonderful community spirit and the dedicated teachers at the school who bring out the creative talents in each student

Concluding quote about the significance of Catholic Education Week and encouraging parents and grandparents to participate in whatever activities are organised.
During prayer, ensure there is a focus for students to centre their thoughts. This focus should include a cross or crucifix, a bible or book of prayers, candles, some colour, perhaps through colourful fabric or flowers, and items, images or paintings which relate to the theme. As students enter the prayer space, have quiet music playing. An excellent resource for meditations and mantras for children is “Be Still and Know...God is Here” by Monica Brown and Hilary Musgrave. The title track could be played during this time. For further ideas about creating an atmosphere for prayer, see ‘Prayer Strategies’ by Beth Nolen (2008, Palmerston, NT: Farrar House Publishing, pp. 29-32).

**Leader:** As we begin, we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia.

**Welcome Introduction (Principal or School Leader)**

Welcome to all members of our school community who have come together to celebrate Catholic Education Week 2014. This year’s theme is the ‘Year of Family Prayer’. During this year there is a diocesan focus on ways to enhance our own prayer life and, particularly, the prayer life of our family. As a family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph would, most certainly, have prayed together as we know that this family was headed by two people of fearless faith and love of God.

We have a tradition of prayer in the Catholic faith ranging from formal prayer such as the ‘Hail Mary’ and ‘Our Father’ through to informal prayer, meditation and prayer through art, movement and music.

The followers of Jesus knew the importance of prayer and, in fact, asked Jesus to teach them a prayer of their own. Jesus’ response was the giving of ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ so today let us join with the apostles as we, too make the request: “Lord, teach us to pray”.

**Students could read out the following statements about prayer:**

Prayer is:

- a relationship between each of us and God
- “the raising of one’s heart and mind to God” [Catechism of the Catholic Church #2559]
“turning the heart toward God. When a person prays, they enter into a living relationship with God” [Youth Catechism (YouCat) #469],

ea two way communication, an invitation and an opportunity: both simple and complex: for everyone: a gift: centred on Jesus Christ: not always easy: persevering: [YouCat #493]: always possible. Prayer is vitally necessary.

Prayer and life cannot be separated: [YouCat #510]

Gathering Song Suggestions

- Gather Together (John Burland, 1999 on Let’s Celebrate Too! and 2007 on Move! Pray! Celebrate!)
- Gather as One (John Burland, 2007 on Move! Pray! Celebrate!)
- One Family (John Burland, 2007 on Move! Pray! Celebrate!)
- We Welcome You to This Place (John Burland, 2002 on One Family)
- Holy Ground (Monica Brown, 2000 on Holy Ground)
- Gather Us O God (Monica Brown, 2000 on Holy Ground)
- Lead Me, Guide Me (Monica Brown, 2000 on Holy Ground)
- We Come Together (John Burland, 1999 on Let’s Celebrate Too!)
- Together as One (Andrew Chinn, 2002 on This Day)

Opening Prayer:
Loving Father, Pour out your blessing on each of us and help us always to know that you are always there for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us now listen to the Word of God
Readings

A reading from the First Book of Kings (19: 11-13)

He said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’
Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

OR

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians (4: 4-8)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

OR

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8:26-27)
Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God
OR

Listen to a Taize chant: O Lord, Hear my Prayer (text from Psalm 102) on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51n-yb11dY

Leader: Let us stand to welcome the Gospel

Procession of the Word
(The Word can be carried ceremoniously to a place of proclamation. It could be accompanied by either instrumental music or an appropriate acclamation.)

Song Suggestions
♦ ‘Halle, Halle, Halle’ (Caribbean Tradition, 1990 on As One Voice for Kids)
♦ ‘Celtic Alleluia’ (Fintan O’Carroll & Christopher Walker, 1985 on As One Voice)
♦ ‘Halleljah! Praise Ye Lord’ (Traditional on As One Voice)
♦ God’s Word (Jane Mitchell, 2011 on We Shine)

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke (11: 1-4)
He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial.’
The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

OR

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke (6:12)
Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.
Prayer service

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (6: 9-15)

‘Pray then in this way:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.
For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

OR

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (26:36-46)

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.’ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.’ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’
Again he went away for the second time and prayed, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.’ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.’ The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Pause for a moment of silent reflection

OR

After the reading the leader is invited to relate the meaning of the Scripture passage to the lives of the students and teachers today.

General Intercessions

Leader: Loving God, we place before you our needs and concerns, trusting in your compassion and mercy, and always grateful of your love and presence in our lives.

Reader 1: For Pope Francis, our Diocesan Administrator Fr Peter Slater, all the priests and deacons of our diocese and all who lead and serve the church in the world, in Australia and in our local community, we pray to the Lord
All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader 2: For Catholic Education in Australia and across our diocese, both urban and remote. May we strive to provide education for all in the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we pray to the Lord
All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader 3: For our families. May they grow strong in the knowledge of your constant presence and love, we pray to the Lord
All: Lord hear our prayer

Reader 4: For ourselves, that we truly appreciate and share the love that God has for each of us, we pray to the Lord
All: Lord hear our prayer
Reader 5: For those in need, may we continue to nurture them in both prayer and action, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer

Leader: Lord, we gather these prayers and the needs and concerns we have spoken along with those deep in our heart. We join our voices with students and peoples around the world as we pray in the words our Savior Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father . . . or sing Our Father (John Burland, 2002 on One Family) or sing The Aboriginal Lord’s Prayer (Andrew Chinn, 2009 on Let Your Light Shine)

OR

Leader: Lord, we gather these prayers and the needs and concerns we have spoken along with those deep in our heart. We join our voices with students and peoples around the world as we pray together the Hail Mary

All: Hail Mary.....or sing the Hail Mary (John Burland, 2002 on One Family)

Action/Engagement Ritual

Students are asked to come forward to take a card (which they are invited to take home and share with their family). As this happens, a Reflection song such as Enflame Our Hearts (Monica Brown, 2003 on Quiet My Soul) or some quiet music is played.

On the cards are written one of the following quotes:

Prayer quotes:

- “Prayer in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us”: St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) as cited in YouCat p. 266
- “Prayer does not change God, but it changes the person who prays: Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) as cited in YouCat p. 270
- “For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy”: St Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) as cited in YouCat p. 258
• “When our prayer has no words, we don’t ask for any particular thing to happen, we don’t come with our agenda, our view of what ought to happen. Setting time aside to be in God’s presence takes practice and dedication but it is arguably the most profound and intimate prayer of all”: Jim Quillinan, *Does Prayer Make Any Difference?* Along the Track, 8 April, 2008.

• “In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place and there he prayed”. Mark 1:35

• For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them”. Matthew 18:20

• “Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed”. Luke 22:41

OR

use quotes from Prayer Styles p.8 available from http://bne.catholic.net.au/data/portal/00005057/0000/005/283/content/69781001349740668762.pdf

**Leader: Let’s now all say together the Diocesan Prayer for Families:**

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of families.

We ask your blessing on all families today and always.

Be with us in our daily life together.

Be our guide in times of challenge.

Be our strength in times of difficulty.

Be our joy in times of delight.

Help our families to grow stronger in your love

and show us how to love one another

as you have loved us.

May we welcome Jesus as the unseen guest in our home.

May we be His voice and hands,

respecting and caring for those we meet.

May we look to the example of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

as we strive to be the best family that we can be.

Most Holy Family of Nazareth, pray for us. Amen.
Concluding Prayer and Blessing

Leader: Loving God, you are our source of wisdom and love and your Holy Spirit gives us power to live as disciples of your Son. May we continue to nurture our relationship with you through prayer and may we also share your love with others through prayer and kindness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen

Leader: As we conclude this prayer service, let us share with each other a sign of Christ’s peace (a sign of peace is offered to those nearby).

Recessional Song Suggestions

- Rise Up (Jane Mitchell, 2006 on Ordinary People)
- Tell the Good News (Andrew Chinn, 2004 on Wherever I Go)
- People of God (Andrew Chinn, 2002 on This Day)
- Shine Among Them (Andrew Chinn, 2007 on Many Roads, One Journey)
- Go Now in Peace (Andrew Chinn, 2002 on This Day)
- We Shine (Jane Mitchell, 2011 on We Shine)
- Go Now (John Burland, 1999 on Let’s Celebrate Too!)
Primary RE activities

This is a good opportunity for teachers to incorporate a wide variety of prayer experiences for their students. Students should also be encouraged to compose their own prayer using a variety of forms; students could then be encouraged to share these with their families.

Students could investigate how different cultures pray

- Create a Y Chart, (Teaching Strategies Book pg. 50); what does Prayer in our class/school look like, feel like, sound like?
- Think- Pair- Share (Teaching Strategies Book pg. 49) or EEKK (Teaching Strategies Book p. 24); Why do we pray? Why is prayer so important?
- Create a graffiti wall depicting all the different ways to pray
- Design banners/posters/ iPad movie advertising and promoting prayer at school/home
- Create a class/individual Blog to share and journal learning about Prayer---its importance, why we pray, when we pray, how often we pray, how we feel after we pray
- Students complete a Character Analysis (Dan White, Kate O’Brien and Steve Todd, Into the Deep pp. 49, 50), on one of the apostles present at Gethsemane (Mt 26:36-46).
- In learning teams students select and investigate different types/forms of prayer and present to the class.
- Reflective moment: each team is given a choice about how they would like to demonstrate their learning to the rest of the class, e.g. A Mind Map, Curtains up Curtains down, (Teaching Strategies Book pg. 81), Scripture graffiti poster (Dan White, Kate O’Brien and Steve Todd, Into the Deep pp. 122,123)
Primary RE activities

- Write a newspaper report/radio report/video about the events in Jesus prays in Gethsemne (Mt 26:36-46).


- Using the Dramatised Bible, students create a Readers’ Theatre for *The Commissioning of the Disciples*, Mt 28:16-20 (keeping in mind the emphasis is on telling the story not the actions). Following this, ask the students the following questions: What surprised you? What moved or touched you? Did something from the story inspire you? If so what and how? What idea appealed to you the most?

- Complete a Scriptural Think Pad (*Teaching Strategies Book* p.93) for this text.


What is one thing you have learned that connects with something you knew before?

What are three of the most important things you have learned about prayer?

What are two questions you would still like answered?
For classes already familiar with Edward deBono’s Six Thinking Hats, reflect on The Commissioning of the Disciples (Mt 28: 16—20).

**White Hat: Information**
What is the important information gained from the text about the Apostles and what they were asked to do?

**Red Hat: Feelings**
How would Jesus be feeling at this time? How would the Apostles be feeling at this time?

**Yellow Hat: Positive aspects**
In light of their commissioning, what did the Apostles achieve?

**Black Hats: Concerns**
What would Jesus’ concerns have been at this time? What would the apostles concerns have been at this time? What barriers were both Jesus and the apostles facing?

**Green Hat: Creative**
What other ways could Jesus have asked the apostles for support? What else could have been done? How could he have encouraged the apostles to pray?

**Blue Hat: The Big Picture**
How can we encourage our families/school/parish/wider community to pray in times of need?
# Secondary RE activities

## Activities for All Year Levels

Using a liturgical calendar, allocate a different Church feast to each year level. The year level can lead the school in prayer at assemblies throughout the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Junior Secondary</th>
<th>Middle Secondary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Students are invited to keep a prayer journal for a given period of time. Students are to experience different types of prayer and record their reflections.</td>
<td>Students can create their own prayer cards using images and short sayings about prayer or lines from prayers or scripture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Using the website <a href="http://waystopray4.weebly.com/">http://waystopray4.weebly.com/</a> use the tools to research different ways to pray using technology.</td>
<td>Using the psalms as prayer, choose a psalm which praises creation and illustrate it; for example insert images from the internet into a slideshow to accompany the text, or use photos you have taken to accompany the text on a poster or create your own picture, symbol, collage etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Students are invited to plan, prepare and lead a communal prayer celebration for their class. This includes the creation of a sacred place, appropriate symbols, music, videos, materials and the selection of appropriate Scripture and/or readings, music and responses. This could be based around the current topic in religious education or an upcoming Church feast.</td>
<td>Students are invited to plan, prepare and lead a communal prayer celebration for their class. This includes the creation of a sacred place, appropriate symbols, music, videos, materials and the selection of appropriate Scripture and/or readings, music and responses. This could be based around the current topic in religious education or an upcoming Church feast.</td>
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## Secondary RE activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Secondary</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Investigate the types and use of prayer in other world religions. Compare these results to Christianity. What similarities and differences exist?</th>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Students are to experience different forms of prayer. Students can use the internet to experience centering prayers, Lectio Divina, Praying with art</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Students are invited to plan, prepare and lead a communal prayer celebration for their class. This includes the creation of a sacred place, appropriate symbols, music, videos, materials and the selection of appropriate Scripture and/or readings, music and responses. This could be based around the current topic in religious education or an upcoming Church feast.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Raps or chants are a great learning tool to help students understand material that is difficult or impossible to experience firsthand. Secondary students may be able to write their own rap about ‘prayer’ while primary students may find it challenging enough to perform the rap below. *Giving the Year of Family Prayer a Big Rap* has been written by Alice Youlden.

Now this is the Year of Family Prayer,
Praying to God shows we want to share
Our lives, our loves ‘cause it gives us a lift,
It’s great; it’s good it is such a gift.

It’s time (woo hoo) to pray (too right) with all of your family today (or tonight).

The Holy family Icon shows a group of three,
Mary and Joseph with Jesus on their knee.
They are set in a circle showing endless love,
With haloes and robes and important stuff.

Our heart it longs for the Great Almighty,
It’s the way we’re created to be friends all righty.
So it’s time to take stock to pray with your bro’,
‘Cause a friendship with God will help you all grow.
It’s time (woo hoo) to pray (too right) with all of your family today (or tonight).

You can pray on your knees, you can pray in your bed,
You can pray in the garden or in the bike shed.
The place doesn’t matter it’s the action that counts,
Do I see you have a frown a few little doubts?

Our God is great and he doesn’t give a hoot,
If you pray standing up or in a car boot.
So gather up the family, every shape and size,
And pray to God as a daily exercise.

It’s time (woo hoo) to pray (too right) with all of your family today (or tonight).
You can **pray** with your dad, you can **pray** with your mum,
You can **pray** with your sis’ or your **gran** if she’s glum.
  *Invite* your aunt and your **uncle** too,
  **All** of your family or just some will do.

It’s **not** so hard and it **doesn’t** take much time,
To **pray** as a family isn’t **such** a crime.
You can **say** a prayer together or a **separate** special word,
  **As long** as you do it, it is **not** absurd.

It’s **time** (woo hoo) to **pray** (too right) with all of your family **today** (or tonight).

We’ve been **praying** in our Church, it’s **part** of our tradition,
‘Cause **Jesus** showed how we **need** it for our mission.
We **need** to have a friendship with our **God** of love,
  To **help** us do good things to give the **bad** a shove.

With our **family** by our side we can **pray** for our needs,
  Or say **thank**you to our God for **dogs** of all breeds.
We can **sing** a song together or even meditate,
  Whatever we do, God will **think** it great.

It’s **time** (woo hoo) to **pray** (too right) with all of your family **today** (or tonight).

  **So listen** to God give **God** a chance,
  **God** is your friend and won’t **lead** you on a dance.
    **Listen** to God with an **open** mind,
    **And then** you’ll show love to **all** humankind.

It’s **time** (woo hoo) to **pray** (too right) with all of your family **today** (or tonight).

*N.B. the words in bold may help you with the beat.*
General learning activities

The celebration of Catholic Education Week provides a special opportunity for showcasing the gifts, achievements, programs and activities within our Catholic school communities that respond to the call to put our faith into action.

The following broad activities are offered as a guide for celebration. However, we encourage you to draw on the programs and initiatives relevant to your school when deciding on the type of celebration. For example, schools implementing a Performance and Development Culture may wish to showcase to the community what PDC entails. Schools implementing 1:1 technology programs may wish to use ICT as a vehicle for showcasing their work.

Celebration of achievements – within each class, each house or on a whole school basis, acknowledge specific academic, sporting, creative and cultural achievements through rewards, medals, citations, picture galleries and so on.

The categories of achievement need not be limited to students but may also cover staff, families and the broader school/parish community. This celebration could occur as part of a liturgy or Mass, and be followed by a sharing of food and drink.

Guest speakers – a wide range of speakers could be invited to reflect upon their Catholic education and the utilisation of their gifts in later life. These speakers could reflect upon the various opportunities they had through their schooling to learn and grow and how these experiences shaped their later lives.

Speakers could include past students and staff, local community and other leaders, and members of the wider parish community.

Visual displays – a wide range of collections of student work, reflections, activities and school/community involvements could be prominently displayed through posters, photo and other galleries, and even on web pages.

Themes for these displays could include: creativity, problem solving, growth, stewardship or specific gifts and opportunities. Again, these displays could include the work of staff and the wider school/parish community.
Put a spotlight on effective learning skills and make one or more a focus for a visual display. Examples include:

**Problem solving**
- Maths problem of the day
- Look at the Nrich project website for a range of problem ideas at varying levels

**Working in teams**
- Design a game
- Research a topic
- Work on a science design brief (e.g. constructing a newspaper tower to support itself)

**Contests and challenges**
A variety of challenges, contests and performances could be promoted around the broad theme or some specific themes, incorporating talent shows, the above displays, team and problem solving contests and so on. The tone would be of celebration and gratitude for the many gifts and opportunities we have in our schools.

With all of these, the performed activities could be captured on film and in writing for promotion on school websites and for reflection in other ways throughout the school year.
Checklist

With so many other things on the school calendar, it is easy for Catholic Education Week to become ‘lost in the crowd’. Here is a checklist to help you ensure the celebration gets the attention it deserves.

Have you:

♦ Planned at least one whole-school event to be celebrated during Catholic Education Week, preferably one event that involves people beyond the school community?

♦ Promoted this event through the school newsletter, parish newsletter, school website or local media (as appropriate)?

♦ Encouraged your Religious Education Coordinator to organise a school prayer service (or Mass) based on the one provided in this booklet?

♦ Encouraged classroom teachers to select appropriate activities from the suggestions provided in this booklet?

♦ Organised for a staff member to take photos of your Catholic Education Week activities?

♦ Prepared and submitted a media release about your main event?

♦ Displayed the enclosed Catholic Education Week posters around your schools?

Towards the end of Catholic Education Week

Have you:

♦ Prepared and submitted (along with a photo) a media release about your main event?

♦ Sent a copy of this media release to publications@ceosale.catholic.edu.au so it can be included as a news story on the Catholic Education Office website as well?
Holy Family Icon for the Year of Family Prayer