

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

Racial Justice, Diversity and Equality

Inset on Monday 12th April 2021

Morning Prayer

**All: We pray this day for the grace to tear down walls that divide us and build bridges of understanding and unity. We praise you, God, for the gift of diversity in our world. Help us learn to listen more deeply and connect with the "other," who may have a different perspective and background. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your son and our brother. Amen.**

**Leader:** We are blessed to live in a world that actively encourages diverse forms of self-expression, filling the planet with variety beyond imagination. And then it coheres this diversity into systems, creating new unities from abundant variety. The system-seeking desire of life calls us to work with its diversity. It asks that we enrich the meaning and capacities of our organisations through our differentness. It asks that we bravely evoke with one another the deep emotions of purpose and meaning. It asks that we have faith that through differentness we can discover unifying identities. Diversity is life's means for discovering new ways of being together. Life pursues a path of differentness to a destination of wholeness, to find new ways of living together.

**All: Good and gracious God, help us to seek and find the depth and richness emerging from the confluence of cultures in our global societies. So much of human wisdom and expertise about health and healing, consciousness, and alternative visions of the future are embodied in the world's different cultures. May we foster greater diversity among us and in our organizations. May we learn to partner with others to create an equitable, just and harmonious world.**

**Amen.**

**Prayer to end Session One:**

O God,

you created all people in your image.

We thank you for the astonishing variety

of races and cultures in this world.

Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship,

and show us your presence

in those who differ most from us,

until our knowledge of your love is made perfect

in our love for all your children;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Prayer to end Session Two:**

Almighty God, through your Holy Spirit you created unity in the midst of diversity;

We acknowledge that human diversity is an expression of your manifold love for your creation;

We confess that in our brokenness as human beings we turn diversity into a source of alienation, injustice, oppression, and wounding.

Empower us to recognise and celebrate differences as your great gift to the human family.

Enable us to be the architects of understanding, of respect and love;

Through the Lord, the source of all unity, we pray.

Amen

**Final Blessing:**

**Diversity Blessing**

May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy,

Go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness.

May the Son who teaches us to care for stranger and foreigners,

Go with us as we try to be good neighbours in our communities.

May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers and celebrates community,

Go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.

Amen

**Final Hymn: For Everyone Born**

FOR EVERYONE BORN, A PLACE AT THE TABLE

BY SHIRLEY ERENA MURRAY

For everyone born, a place at the table,

for everyone born, clean water and bread,

a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,

for everyone born, a star overhead,

CHORUS

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,

yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,

revising the roles, deciding the share,

with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,

for woman and man, a system that's fair,

CHORUS

For young and for old, a place at the table,

a voice to be heard, a part in the song,

the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,

for young and for old, the right to belong,

CHORUS

For just and unjust, a place at the table,

abuser, abused, with need to forgive,

in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,

for just and unjust, a new way to live,

CHORUS

For everyone born, a place at the table,

to live without fear, and simply to be,

to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,

for everyone born, the right to be free,

CHORUS

For gay and for straight, a place at the table,

a covenant shared, a welcoming space,

a rainbow of race and gender and colour,

for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,

FINAL CHORUS

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,

yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!