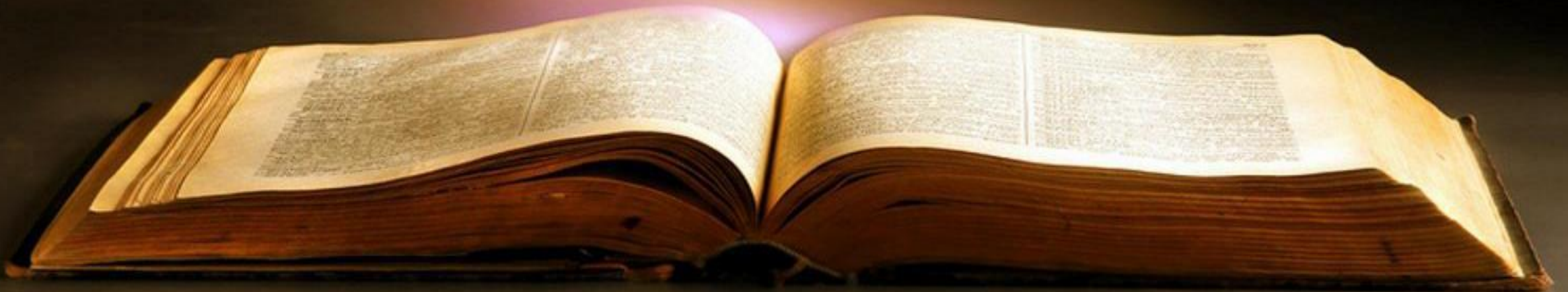




**Year 7 Welcome Liturgy**

**Holy Trinity Academy**

**'Welcome the stranger'**



**Service Leader:** *Service leader invites pupils to make the sign of the cross as the Service says ...*

We begin our liturgy today in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A warm welcome to you all. The theme of the service today is 'Welcome the stranger'. Our Christian Academy is a new environment for you – and we have fond memories of you all arriving here on your first full day at the start of this term. Staff and students took the time to welcome you to your new school for you were 'strangers' here. Now we hope that you have settled in and have found your place within our community.

We take our inspiration for this service from the Gospel of Matthew which we shall hear shortly.

**[play video: Rev Lisa does her introduction]**

Whenever we come together, we need to remember that we are in the presence of Christ. He is with us and celebrating our service with us.

Therefore it would be only right to ask Christ for forgiveness for the things we have done wrong, to help us prepare ourselves for this service ...



**Reader 1:** For the times when we have been selfish and put our own needs before those of others ...  
Lord have mercy.

**All pupils:** **Lord, have mercy**

**Reader 1:** For the times when we have not stood up for what is right and just  
Christ have mercy

**All pupils:** **Christ have mercy**

**Reader 1:** For the times when we have not made others feel welcome in our lives and left others feeling lonely  
Lord have mercy

**All pupils:** **Lord have mercy**



Help those in need

**Reader 2:** A reading from the Gospel of Matthew ...

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**All pupils:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Service Leader:** The message is fairly straightforward. Christ is in all people – He is in all of you.

When we welcome you into our community, we welcome Christ himself. Christ is the reason why we do things - He is the source of our actions and motivation. We don't always get it right but we can always try.

So, as we gather today, we think about how this first term has been for you so far in your new school and whether you feel you are settled here, made new friends and are progressing as well as you should.

Just think back to the end of last term, as you were leaving your primary school. Take a moment to remember ... How did you feel? What did you enjoy most about primary school? Think about your favourite memories.

So there was probably some sadness at leaving your old school. But surely you had some thoughts about coming to a new school, too.

Think silently about one thing *you* were nervous about when you thought of coming to a new school, and one thing you looked forward to ...



**Reader 3:** Loving God, thank you that you know and love each of us as your child. We give you all our worries and fears and ask you to continue to help us settle into our new life here.  
Lord, in your mercy

**All pupils:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Reader 3:** Loving God, thank you for our class teachers and for all the members of our different classes. Reassure us that we can come to them if ever we are worried or have a problem.  
Lord, in your mercy

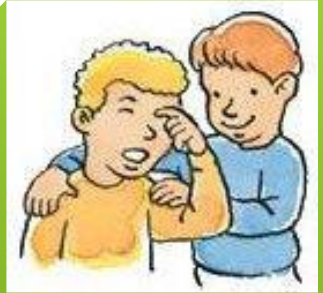
**All pupils:** **Hear our prayer.**

*[Service Leader will invite all Year 7s to say the following prayer]*

**All pupils:** **God, Father of the poor, your Son Jesus was born among us poor, humble and dependent.**

**Open our eyes and our hearts and our hands to honour him now as our Lord and King by welcoming him in those who are hungry and thirsty, in all who are abandoned and lonely, in refugees, in the poor and the sick.**

**Let our love become free and spontaneous, like the tenderness you have shown us in your Son. Welcome us in the everlasting Kingdom prepared for us through Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.**



Comfort others



**Reader 4:** In friendships and lessons, break times and assemblies, masses and after school activities, may we see Christ in all that we do and in all whom we meet.

**Reader 5:** Like Jesus, we too must be prepared to put others before ourselves. To comfort those who mourn, feed those who are hungry, visit those in hospital or in prison. We must want what is best for them and be prepared to give something of ourselves for them.

**Reader 6:** We are not saved by having once shown mercy to someone...for “I was hungry” and “I was a stranger” is said not of one occasion, not of one day, but of the whole of your life. In the same way, “you gave me food,” “you gave me drink,” “you clothed me,” and so on, does not merely indicate one incident or action, but a constant attitude to everyone always. May Christ give us the strength to live this lifestyle in accordance to His word.

**Service Leader:** So the theme of our service today is ‘welcome the stranger’ However, the Gospel message is very clear. There are things that we are also expected to do. And so it would be a good idea to spend some time reflecting on those things.

So shortly, your teacher will play some quiet reflective music and ask you to have a think for a short while. During this time we would like you to come up with just one thing we could do as a Year group to either ...

- i) Welcome the stranger
- ii) Feed the hungry
- iii) Comfort others
- iv) Give others a second chance

**All pupils:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come, they will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
Amen**

**Service Leader:**

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all harm and make us all that God has called us to be. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Welcome the stranger