

## Prayer around the Cross

### **Items needed:**

*A cloth for the Sacred Space*

*Candle, taper, matches*

*CD player and CD with soft music*

*A large cardboard cross (This can be hung in the classroom for Lent)*

*Children need a pen, colouring pencils or marker*

*Cut out little cardboard crosses 10 cm high or rectangular shape 10 by 5 cm: one for each pupil.*

### **The children need to learn the response:**

We adore, O Christ, and we praise you-  
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

### **Sacred Space:**

*Place the purple cloth in the centre. On it place a large cardboard cross. The cross needs to be large enough for each student to glue their little cross with Jesus printed on it, or the seniors pupils may prefer the rectangular shape with their Lenten resolution written on to it.*

### **Leader**

During this holy season of Lent we are on a journey of faith. Lent invites us to turn towards God and live as Jesus asked us to. God our Father, help us to look into our hearts and see if we are living as Jesus showed us.

### **Leader**

You called us to be people of prayer.

### **All**

Lord, have mercy.

### **Leader**

You call us to be people of peace.

### **All**

Christ, have mercy.

### **Leader**

You call us to be people of love.

### **All**

Lord, have mercy

### **Opening Prayer:**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask that you help us listen carefully to your words.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **All:**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:**

Lent is a six week period when we focus on events in the life of Jesus. During these six weeks we are invited to think about things that Jesus said and did. During Lent we move together towards Good Friday, the day that Jesus died on the cross, and we think of Easter Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead.

**Reader 1**

During Lent, with our eyes on Jesus, we try to spend more time at prayer, more time listening and talking to God.

**Reader 2**

During Lent, with our eyes on Jesus, we try to be more aware of the needs of others, and to share our time and our money with those who are less well off than we are; the homeless and the poor.

**Reader 3**

During Lent, with our eyes on Jesus, we try to grow stronger by learning to say “no” to our sins and our failings, and by sometimes even saying “no” to the things we enjoy – such as sweets, TV, money etc.

**Scripture Reading**

It was about noontime, but darkness (*like that from an eclipse of the sun*) had settled over the whole land. This lasted until mid-afternoon. Jesus, having been on the cross three hours, uttered a loud cry and said: “Father, into your hands I give you my spirit.” After he said this, he died. Upon seeing what had happened, a soldier gave glory to God and cried out: “Surely this was an innocent man.”

The Gospel of the Lord

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

*Play soft music in the background.*

**Leader**

Close your eyes for a few moments. Thank Jesus for loving you in such a special and generous way. Talk to Jesus about what is happening in your life. *Use your inside voice.*

**Leader:** (*Invite the*

*Senior pupils to write a Lenten resolution*

*Junior pupils to colour the little cut out crosses with Jesus printed on them. They could use their favourite to do so.*

*Allow time to do the task.*

*Invite each pupil to attach the written resolution or the coloured cross to the large cross with blue-tack.*

*Intersperse attaching the resolutions or coloured crosses by saying together...*

**All:**

We adore, O Christ, and we praise you-  
by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Reader 4**

Jesus, please receive our good intentions (*if writing Lenten resolution*)

*OR*

Jesus, please receive our love and our thanks (*if colouring the cross*)

Help us to be true to our love and promises through all of Lent.

We adore, O Christ, and we praise you -

by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Closing prayer**

Jesus, during this holy season of Lent, we ask you to be with us.

Help us to follow you always.

May we be people of prayer, peace and love.

Amen.

**Hymn**