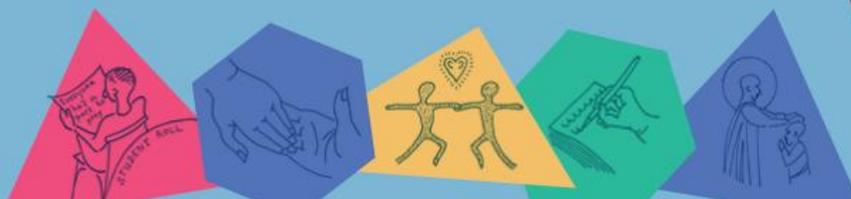


Enabling Communities

EVERYONE HAS A PART TO PLAY



Social Justice Week Liturgies

Notes for Secondary Schools

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini

*My achievements and strengths are not those of the individual,
but those of the many*

This liturgy is suitable for use in RE classes or assemblies during Social Justice Week.

Most of the words of the liturgy can be found on the slides.

There are also additional Commentary parts below, as well as the scripture reading and a short biography of Jean Vanier.

It would also be good to have another couple of people read the slides and the prayers for any students who are visually impaired, and also for emphasis.

Slides 1 & 2

Commentary: This year in Social Justice Week we are mindful of those people in our communities who live with disabilities such as visual, hearing, physical and intellectual impairments. We are also aware of those with hidden challenges which may affect their capacity to participate fully in all school activities. As Christians we are called to see the person, not the disability.

The whakatauki that has been chosen for Social Justice Week this year is:

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini

*My achievements and strengths are not those of the individual,
but those of the many*

This reminds us that we all need each other. We all have abilities to contribute to the human family.

These abilities are to be celebrated and shared.

Slide 3 (move through next three slides during the reading)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 12:14-22)

Our bodies don't have just one part. They have many parts.

Slide 4

Suppose a foot says, *I'm not a hand, and so I'm not part of the body*. Wouldn't the foot still belong to the body?

Or suppose an ear says, *I'm not an eye, and so I'm not part of the body*. Wouldn't the ear still belong to the body? If our bodies were only an eye, we couldn't hear a thing. And if they were only an ear, we couldn't smell a thing.

But God has put all parts of our body together in the way that he decided is best.

Slide 5

A body isn't really a body, unless there is more than one part. It takes many parts to make a single body. That's why the eyes can't say they don't need the hands. That's also why the head can't say it doesn't need the feet. In fact, we can't get along without the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest.

Slide 6

This is the Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Slide 7-10

Move through these 4 slides while a leader reads the following commentary:

Commentary:

Jean Vanier is a man who has lived out St Paul's directive to take care of the parts of the body which may seem weak or vulnerable.

Jean Vanier was born in Canada in 1928. After several decades studying and teaching, he came to work as an assistant chaplain at an institution for men with intellectual disabilities. Vanier was deeply touched by the distress of two of these men, Raphael and Philippe, who were finding institutional life very difficult and impersonal. He decided to buy a small house and to invite these men to come and live with him.

From these humble beginnings, the first L'Arche community was born. Today there are 151 L'Arche communities in five continents, where adults with intellectual disabilities live with adult volunteers known as assistants. The communities are essentially about belonging, and experiencing loving relationships. Vanier says that what Raphael and Philippe wanted from him was not his intellectual knowledge and his ability to do certain things, but 'rather they needed my heart and my being'.

Vanier developed his own particular spirituality which he called 'the way of the heart'. It is practised by all those who live in L'Arche communities.

The following slides contain quotes from Jean Vanier which explain his 'way of the heart'.

Slides 11-16

Have someone read out the slides as you move through them.

Slides 17-23

Have two or three readers read out the parts of the prayer as you move through the slides.

Slides 24-27

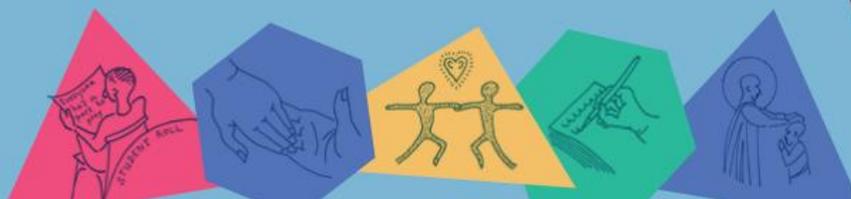
Have one reader read the Final Blessing.

Final Slide (28)

Pope Francis calls on each of us to consider that the way we experience illness and disability is an indication of the love we have to offer. Do we meet our own personal challenges and those of others with impatience and intolerance? Or do we learn to appreciate the uniqueness and gifts of each other? By accepting our limitations, we are reminded that we all need each other to complete the Body of Christ.

Enabling Communities

EVERYONE HAS A PART TO PLAY



Social Justice Week Liturgies

Notes for Primary Schools

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini

*My achievements and strengths are not those of the individual,
but those of the many*

This liturgy is suitable for use in RE classes or assemblies during Social Justice Week. It should take about 15 minutes.

There are parts for five readers; first commentary, scripture reading, second commentary, reflection reader and prayer reader. They will need to practise their parts with the person who scrolls through the slides.

Slides 1 & 2

First commentary:

Slide 1 This year in Social Justice Week we are thinking about people who live with difficulties such as poor vision, hearing impairments, physical disabilities and learning problems. We are also aware of those who might struggle to be part of groups or games because of some hidden disability that we can't see.

Slide 2 The Māori proverb on this slide

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini

It means... *My achievements and strengths are not those of the individual,
but those of the many*

This reminds us that we all need each other. We all have abilities to contribute to the human family.

These abilities are to be celebrated and shared.

Slide 3 - 7 (move through these slides while the Scripture reading is read)

Scripture reading is taken from the Contemporary English Version, 2012

Scripture reader: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Romans 12:5-8)

There are many of us, but we are each part of the body of Christ, as well as part of one another.

God has also given us different gifts to use. If we can prophesy, we should do it according to the amount of faith we have. If we can serve others, we should serve.

If we can teach, we should teach. If we can encourage others, we should encourage them.

If we can give, we should be generous. If we are leaders, we should do our best. If we are good to others, we should do it cheerfully.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Stay on Slide 7 - Second commentary:

What is St Paul saying about God's family?

He is saying that it is a good thing that we are all different because we can all contribute to the world in different ways.

What if we were all good at singing, and no-one was good at writing songs? What use would that be?

God has given different gifts and talents to each of us.

Even though we are all unique, there are some ways in which we are very alike.

Think about what it takes for a person to be happy...

Slides 8-16 - Reflection reader

Have someone read out each slide in the reflection about what makes us happy.

Slides 17-20 - Prayer reader

Have someone read the prayer aloud as you move through the final slides.



The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace & Development