**A STRUCTURE FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The structure ‘Gather, Listen, Respond, Send Forth’ can be used for most liturgies and times of prayer, including assemblies and class prayer.

**GATHER:**

We are reminded why we gather, and in whose name we gather; the theme is introduced.

* Sign of the Cross
* Introduction

Introduce theme … “Today’s assembly is about …”

**LISTEN:**

We listen to the word of God in scripture; this is then expanded or explained as necessary, relating it to the age and experience of the pupils.

* Gospel Reading

Read by staff or pupils, rehearsed beforehand to ensure the y can be heard and can pronounce words; preferably read from a bible, not a piece of paper.

* Reflection

You might reflect on a theme from the reading, relating it to the pupils experience or to the world. Some of the following might give further ideas:-

1. Use a newspaper article or stories from the news
2. Use an idea from a TV programme, film or book
3. Use images or props to help illustrate
4. Use a story (either facts or fiction) from your own experience or from others
5. Use a powerpoint reflection with words and images and perhaps music
6. Show a clip from a DVD
7. Use an historical event, e.g Holocaust Memorial Day
8. Use the life and example of a Saint if it is a feast day
9. Speak from personal experience

**RESPOND:**

Having listened to God’s word we are invited to respond appropriately; this might be through silent reflection or in prayer, spoken aloud by one person or by all.

* In prayer and reflection

Either: Invite Pupils to pray for a moment in silence before leading a prayer e.g “Let’s take a moment to reflect on what God is asking of us today, asking him for strength we need to follow Jesus” … ( pause for 30 seconds) … Prayer read aloud.

Or: If using a traditional prayer, e.g Our Father, ask the pupils to reflect first on what they want to pray for then say it together. Ensure that it is not rushed but said collectively at a normal pace, to allow the pupils time to think about the words, e.g “Let’s take a moment to reflect on what God is asking for us today, asking him for the strength we need to follow Jesus … (Pause for 30 seconds) … We pray together: Our Father …” (Only one traditional prayer should be recited in collective worship)

Or: put a simple prayer relating to the theme in a powerpoint that the pupils can say together.

Or: Announce 3 or 4 short prayer intentions, some of which might be related to the theme, each ending with a period of silence to allow everyone to pray, then ending ‘Lord, in your mercy’, to which all respond, ‘Hear our prayer’.

**SEND FORTH:**

We end the time of prayer collectively and are challenged to take what we have learned with us as we go.

* Recap on theme of Collective worship; perhaps offer a challenge for the day ahead
* Sign of the Cross

ANNOUNCEMENTS ETC.

**N.B Ideally the whole theme/subject of the assembly should be enclosed within the Sign of the Cross at the beginning and the end. The Sign of the Cross should not be either side of the prayer, as an Act of Collective Worship should be more than just one prayer.**