

**Eucharistic Retreat**

**2014**

**Teacher’s Booklet**

**EUCHARIST Retreat**

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| 8:15 am8:20 am8:40 am9:10 am9:30 am9:40am10.00am10.30am10.40am11.00am11.10am | **Holy Place****PRAYER AND WELCOME:** **Leader:** Lord JesusBless these children who are coming forward to you on Sunday to receive Holy Communion for the first time.May this day be an initial step into a life ‘long love of the Eucharist.Give then a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance and wisdom.**All:** May our hands and hearts be extended in anticipation of your Body and Blood Oh Jesus, Inspire all of us to cherish this sacred sacrament. **Amen****SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** this is a quiet time for students to reflect on what they are sorry for. * Read through reconciliation card. Think about what you need to say to Father.
* Students to make their reconciliation with Father Matt or Father Marcello.

**PILGRIMAGE TO ST JOHN OF GOD CENTRE*** Students will walk as a group to the centre, reflecting on the importance of this journey and their relationship with God.

**REFRESHMENTS:** On arriving at the centre – students will have an early morning tea. (20mins)**INTRODUCTION*** On the chart you can see five words. *Read words.* What do you think they might relate to?

GatherListenGive ThanksReceiveGo!* Today we are going to explore what each of these words means.

These five words tell us about the five main things we do when we come together to celebrate the Mass or the Eucharistic celebration, as it is also known.**WE GATHER:** *Leader: Refer to chart.* On the weekend (Saturday evening and Sunday) people in this area come together to our Cathedral to give thanks to God. People come from all different walks of life – there will be children there who go to a different school to you; there will be parents, grandparents, and other parishioners that you may not know, but everyone comes together as a community to say thank you.**Question 1**: Who will gather to celebrate your First Holy Communion with you? (Give responses)**Question 2:** Who will be on your guest list? (Share response with a partner)**WE LISTEN:** (20 mins)* *Refer to chart.* When we celebrate the Mass there are two types of listening that happens – first we listen to God and God listens to us.

We listen to God:* During the Mass we listen to stories. Some people from the community read a number of different stories.

**Question 1:** What are these stories called? (The Readings)**Question 2:** How many readings we listen to at a Sunday Mass? *(Talk and share – three)** *Students discuss and record what each of these readings are about:*

**First Reading** – We listen to the stories that formed us as a people of God as revealed through the prophets and the kings of the Old Testament;**Second Reading** – We listen to stories of the work of the early Church. How Jesus’ friends continued the work of Jesus after Jesus returned to His Father in heaven.**Gospel** – We listen to the life and teachings of Jesus in the New Testament.Each reading reveals a part of our faith tradition: an aspect of God at work in our lives and in the lives of others. In sharing and listening to the stories of our faith tradition we can identify ourselves as a people of God.**Read Gospel Stories*** Let us have a look at four Gospel stories.
* In groups of 4 – students to read each of the Scripture stories
* Choose their favourite
* Discuss and write: What does your chosen story teach us about Jesus?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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| FISH FOR BREAKFASTSimon Peter said to the disciples, “I’m going fishing.” They replied, “We’ll come with you.” They went out and got the boat, but they caught nothing the whole night long.When day had already broken, Jesus was standing on the shore but the disciples did not know it was Jesus. Jesus called to them, “Have you caught anything?” They answered “Nothing!” He said to them, “Throw the net on the other side of the boat and you will find some.” When they had lowered the net on the other side they were not able to pull it in because of the great number of fish.When they came to the shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and some bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have caught and come and have some breakfast.”Jesus took the bread and gave it to them and he did the same with the fish.(Adapted from John 21:3-13)A WOMAN IS HEALEDI had been sick for eighteen years, bent over, doubled up – I couldn’t stand straight at all. I was in the temple and Jesus was there. He called me over to him, laid his hands on me and said,“Woman, you are cured of your sickness | A PICNIC IN THE GRASSSoon afterwards Jesus was in the midst of another large crowd who obviously had nothing to eat.One of the disciples, Andrew, said, “There is a lad here who has five loaves and two fish, but what are they amongst so many?” Jesus had all the people sit down and taking the loaves, he gave thanks, broke them and handed then to his disciples to distribute. He took the fish, said the blessing and asked these to be shared as well.The people – five thousand of them – ate and were satisfied.(Adapted from John 6:9-11)NO WINE AT THE WEDDINGThree days later there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Jesus and his mother and his disciples were there. All the wine provided for the celebration had been served and they had run out of wine.There were six stone jars so Jesus said to the servants,” Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them to the brim. Then Jesus said, “Now take them to the steward.” So they did.The steward tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing from where it had come; for only the servants who had drawn the water knew. So he immediately called the bridegroom to tell him, “Everyone serves the best wine first and when people have drunk enough, they serve that which is ordinary. But you have kept the best wine until the end.”(Adapted from John 2:1, 6-10) |

* Have children discuss: What does your story teach us about Jesus?

 -*talk and share…*Record:* Explain each story briefly and point out the commonalties.

Can you work out what they are?  -*talk and share…** Place flashcards on the board as they arise from the responses:

**Sharing** – all sharing stories**Miracle** – all miracle stories**Food** – all stories centred around food **Needed** – Jesus gave each what they needed* These four elements describe what the Eucharist is about.

Students to record in booklet and complete the blanks below.We come together to **share** as a community. Every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist a **miracle** happens right before our eyes – the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus.The Body and Blood of Jesus is our spiritual **food.**This spiritual food, together with the support of the community is **needed** to help us to live as Jesus taught.**Write**Through readings we learn about the person of Jesus and what he taught us about God.* Each child to think of one word to describe Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Think about the word you just shared. If Jesus was an understanding person, then how can your family be more like Jesus in this way?

**B: God listens to us:*** Ask child – Who can remind me of the second type of listening that happens at Mass? *God listens to us.*
* At a special timer in the Mass we remind God of the needs of the community. This is when a person prays a prayer which end with – Lord hear us and we answer – Lord hear our prayer. Who knows what this prayer is called? *The Prayer of the Faithful.*
* Talk about the Prayer of the Faithful. Who or what do we want to pray for?
	+ *Take 2 or 3 responses*

**Student Prayer Writing*** On your Holy Communion day who are you going to pray for?
* Today you get to write a special prayer for someone in your family

e.g.Loving God,something your child knows about God *(You are always with us)*the name of your child *(Betty is our daughter)*something good about him/her *(She has great courage)*your hopes and dreams for your child. *(We hope that…)** Children complete a draft prayer first, then copy onto coloured card
* When prayers are finished, have children place it under their chair as we will use it later.
* Recap – we have gathers, we have listened to God and He has listened to us. These 2 steps have prepared us to give thanks to God.

**WE GIVE THANKS:** (15 mins)* *Refer to chart.* Describe the Procession of the Gifts: Early Church – everyone in the community contributed to a gift for the poor in the area. For example, if you were a cheesemaker, you brought some cheese as your gift. Then the priest washed his hands because they were dirty before he continued with the Mass.
* Ask children what are we giving thanks for here? *Bread and wine.* Explain why we give thanks for these two gifts.

While they were waiting, Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to his friends. He said, “Take this, this is my body which is given for you.” Then he took the cup and after he had given thanks, he passed the cup to them and they all drank from it. He said, “This is my blood which will be poured out for you and for all.”(Adapted from Luke 22:17-20)Ask children, what is the name of this story? The Last SupperRead extract from the Eucharistic Prayer to students.What are we giving thanks to God for here? *The Gift of Jesus.***WE RECEIVE:*** Show a bread roll to group while discussing these questions:

Why did Jesus choose bread? What five things did Jesus ask us to do with the bread? 1. Take the bread 2. Pray 3. Break 4. Share 5. Eat * Display host. Get someone to demonstrate receiving the host. Point out – how to walk up, how to hold hands, response, step to the side, in mouth, sign of the cross, join hands.
* Do the same with the wine, if that is what they will get on the day.
* Children practice receiving Holy Communion.

**WE GO:*** Discuss – What are you taking with you today?
* What is something you have learnt today?

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* **LOOK AFTER GOD’S CREATION**
* **CARe FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE IN NEED**
* **GO AND ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**
* **ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST**
* **HELP SOMEONE**
* **SHARe WITH OTHERS**
* **SHOW KINDNESS**

**In Celebrating the Eucharist we gain****a sense of community, unity, togetherness, gratefulness, peace, purposefulness****Prayer Time*** Each child prays the prayer they have written for the Prayers of the Faithful.

**Holy Communion Practice in Church**REQUIREMENTS FOR EUCHARIST Retreat1. Chairs.
2. Pencils, rubbers and textas or pencil cases
3. Whiteboard or 2 x sheets of A3 paper and markers.
4. A bread roll
5. A host/wine
6. Poster for introduction – gather, listen, give thanks, receive, go!
7. Flashcards for scripture activity with words – sharing, miracle, food, needed
8. Flashcards for Eucharistic Prayer activity – Took, Blessed, Broke, Shared, Ate
9. Morning tea – water, food???
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