**REFLECTION ON OUR SERVICE OF OTHERS**

**Flower** - a symbol of one of the great Christian virtues: hope. Flowers brighten life. They appear in impossible places like cracks in cement and on fire-ridden trees. To see a tree full of flowers lifts our spirits and reaffirms to goodness of life.

Think for a moment what this flower might say about your work in the year to come. (pause)

*God our friend, we ask that you will fill us with your spirit in the year to come, so we*

*will be people of hope to all we work with.*



**String -** a symbol of how essential each person in a team’s work is to a group. String holds things together, or prevents them from falling, or keeps things in place: it helps us avoid chaos and is always useful for lots of things. You as a team member can be like the string and use your gifts to support, to hold people and things together, not let them break down.Think for a moment what might this string might say about your work in the year to come.

*God, always faithful and always our friend, help us to walk supportively with all in our community this year, even the unpopular, the different, the loners and the lonely.*

**Stone -**  a symbol of the hard things we may need to do in our work: supporting CEWA values and decisions that are not popular; making decisions about which some or all may be unhappy; making choices which impact on our own time and freedom. Think what the stone may speak to you about your work ahead of you…

*God, my friend, when I must take the lonely and hard decisions, help me to know you*

*will always be with me.*

**Playdough:**  clay symbolises the people whom we will influence in the year to come. The power of positive influence is enormous. The whole tone and mood of our community is affected by the way people act, consult, and live out its values. Your attitude to your work will affect the whole atmosphere of the team this year. Think what might it be saying to you about your work in the year to come.

*God, present to us in Jesus, may the example we set always be positive and build up the community we share, especially those in our schools who look to us for support.*



**CEWA logo -** As a member of our team, you are expected to be loyal to the organisation, to its Christian values, care for all who are in the system and its educational goals. Reflect on what it speaks to you about your work this year…

*Faithful God, Jesus taught us you remain loyal to us even when we forget you. May we, be loyal to Catholic Education and the values it represents by the way we live and act both at work and outside it.*

**Broken stick -** Carefully straighten the stick out. Did any break? In a community the size of our Kimberley Catholic Education community, it is amazing how many broken lives we can encounter. As we work, we are not asked to mend all these broken lives: there are experts who can help do this, but we are asked to remember and take into account that the people with whom we work and on whom we put expectations and demands, may have times of brokenness in their lives. We must always ensure our work is balanced with compassion, gentleness and awareness of the needs of others: and in that way our very actions can bring healing to injured lives. Think about what this stick tells you about your work in the year to come.

*Gentle God, teach us compassion for the lonely, the strange, the different, the rejected. May we be their friend even when others will not, just as you are for us.*

**Biscuit -**  Food is an integral part of the rituals of every culture and religion: it draws people

together, makes them feel at home, breaks down barriers: it creates companions: sharers of bread. Many of us, in our travels, share a meal with each other or with other members of our Catholic Education community. What might this biscuit, this food, say to you about your work?

*God of the Covenant, your people have used food throughout the ages as a sign of their unity, a symbol of their being a special family. As we share this food now, may it symbolise our determination to work together and support each other in the year to come.*

**Lollipop -** Lollipops are symbols of carefree natures, silliness, and wackiness. We need to be joy filled people, just as Pope Francis asks us to be. We mustn't forget how and when to laugh and celebrate and let our hair down. Being a Broome CEWA team member doesn't always mean being serious and refined and dignified. What can a lollipop say to us about our work this year?

*Thank you, God, for the good things in life. For the joys, the times we can be proud; feel good; see results for our work in the year to come.*

**Scripture -** Take out and read the words of St Paul from our reading today about love....... Look at his letter to the Colossians: over all these things, put on love. So take that sheet and stick it over the top, back and bottom of the box with the contact in your box. This will help remind you that with everything you do this year, let it be done in love.

**Prayer card -** Take out the coloured card and reflect for a moment on the blank space on the card – just like the blank space promised by the year ahead. On the card, spend a few moments writing your own prayer for what you’d like from this year – personally or professionally. Once you’ve prayed it, place your prayer into your box.

