

LITURGY OF BLESSING OF THE BICENTENARY PAINTINGS

Santa Teresa, 16 February, 2017

“Making Jesus Christ known and loved”

1. **Gathering rite** (All people to assemble outside. The four paintings to provide the focus for this gathering)
 - a. Br Daniel to welcome all assembled
 - b. Welcome to country (local school staff)
 - c. Br Peter to introduce the liturgy
 - d. Bishop Hurley to greet
 - e. Smoking ceremony of the people and paintings

2. **Procession into the Church**
 - a. Cross and paintings to lead the procession

3. **Order of the liturgy:**
 - a. **Opening song** (as we process – led by choir) “We Are Gathering Together”(in English & Arrernte)
 - b. **Sign of the cross**
 - c. **Opening prayer**

Let us pray.
God of the Holy Dreaming, we gather today to celebrate 200 years of Marist mission in the Church throughout the world. Bless this gathering in the heart of our nation as we pause to listen to your Word and its incarnation in the Marist story. We make this our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.
 - d. **The story of the paintings** (Br Michael Akers)
 - e. **Gospel Procession** led by choir – “Alleluia”
 - f. **Gospel:** *Let the Children Come to Me* (Mark 10:13-16)

Some people brought their children to Jesus so that he could bless them by placing his hands on them. But his disciples told the people to stop bothering him. When Jesus saw this, he became angry and said, “Let the children come to me! Don’t try to stop them. People who are like these little children belong to the kingdom of God. I promise you that you cannot get into God’s kingdom, unless you accept it the way a child does.” Then Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them by placing his hands on them.
 - g. **Homily reflection** (Bishop Hurley)
 - h. **Blessing of paintings**

Bishop:
Let us pray. [Moment of silence]
O GOD, by whose Word all things are sanctified.
pour forth your blessing upon these paintings
and grant that whosoever shall gaze upon them
will encounter you abundant love and blessing.
Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen. [The paintings are sprinkled with holy water]
 - i. **Prayers of Petition**

Bishop: Let us be one in prayer to God our Father as we are one in the faith, hope, and love His Spirit gives.

Reader: God of the Holy Dreaming, we pray for people who have not heard the stories about Jesus. Send people with generous hearts like St Marcellin to share the good news about Jesus with everyone. Lord, hear us. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: God of the Holy Dreaming, we pray for children throughout the world where there are no schools. Send others to teach these children just like St Marcellin sent the Marist Brothers to teach children without a school in his time. Lord, hear us,...

Reader: God of the Holy Dreaming, St Marcellin said we should love everyone and love them equally. Help each of us to be kind, helpful and loving towards others, especially those in our family. Lord, hear us. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

Reader: God of the Holy Dreaming, Marcellin trusted in Mary as his Good Mother. May we all follow in the way of Mother Mary and be faithful to Jesus in everything we say and do. Lord, hear us. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

Bishop: Loving God, may Your word and the inspiration of people like St Marcellin brings hope and life into our hearts. We offer our prayers, through Christ our Lord. Amen

j. **Our Father** (Arrernte led by choir)

k. **Concluding prayer**

Mary, dawn of the new times, We thank you because you have always done everything among us and you continue doing it down to today. We place ourselves confidently in your hands and abandon ourselves to your tenderness. We also entrust to you each of the persons who, like us, feel privileged to bear your name. We renew this day our consecration to you as well as our firm intention to contribute to building a Church which reflects your face. You, source of our renewal, accompany our fidelity, as you accompanied those who preceded us. On this the bicentenary for all Marists in the way of St Marcellin, we feel your presence next to us and for that we give you thanks. Amen.

l. **Blessing & dismissal**

m. **Closing song** – Mary song led by choir

n. **Expression of thanks on behalf of MSA** (Dr Frank Malloy)

4. Hospitality after the liturgy (Br Daniel) – light refreshments (sandwiches, cakes, fruit etc.)

OTHER DETAILS ...

1. The liturgy will begin at 8.45am
2. The liturgy will have a duration of 30-40 mins
3. The local community will choose and lead the music/songs; process the paintings
4. Guest list:
 - a. Bishop Hurley
 - b. Br Peter Carroll (Provincial)
 - c. Dr Frank Malloy (Director, MSA)
 - d. Mr Paul Herrick (Regional Director, MSA)
 - e. Br Hubert Williams (MLF, Melbourne)
 - f. Mrs Gail Coates (Marist Association)
 - g. Ms Elizabeth Falconer (MLF, Brisbane)
 - h. Br Michael Akers (Bicentenary Committee)