

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES



PRESIDER:

VENUE:

TIME:

YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

Checklist of items and personnel required for this Liturgy:

ITEMS	PERSONNEL
Coloured fabric and boxes for a focus space.	Student to tap clapping sticks
Clapping sticks	Student 1
A bowl of coffee beans	Student 2
Laminated photo of a goat on the focus space. (see below)	Student to place photo of the goat
Laminated photo of the Ethiopian flag. (see below)	Student to place photo of the flag
A container of soil	Student to place a container of soil
A book	Student to place a book
A lit candle	Student to place lit candle
Book holders to support laminated photos	First reader – Acts of the Apostles
Catholic Mission PowerPoint resource	Prayers of Intercession 1
Computer	Prayers of Intercession 2
	Prayers of Intercession 3
	Prayers of Intercession 4
	Prayers of Intercession 5
	Computer operator





GATHERING

Acknowledgement of Country

— Please remain seated.

The clapping sticks sound at the door of the church and continue to sound as they are processed through the church to the front. The clapping sticks fall silent and the person playing them moves aside. Once silence has fallen students 1 and 2 move to the lectern.

Introducing Ethiopia

Student 1: Welcome to our liturgy for World Mission Month: “You will be my witnesses...” Our focus country is Ethiopia, where the Church seeks to provide life-fulfilling opportunities for children in need. Let us create a focus space.

Student 2: Ethiopia is Africa's oldest country and is where the coffee bean originated. We place a bowl of coffee beans.

A bowl of coffee beans are placed on the focus space.

Student 1: Our work with people in Emdibir support a goat breeding program to provide income and nutrition. We place an image of a goat.

The image is placed on the focus space.

Student 2: The national flag contains a yellow star representing unity. We place an image of the flag.

The image is placed on the focus space.

Student 1: The Tukul is a round, thatched Ethiopian house that is built using straw and mud. It is commonly seen in rural communities. We place a container of soil, a source of sustenance and shelter.

A container of soil is placed on the focus space.

Student 2: At Lideta Catholic Cathedral School education is available to students from all walks of life through the scholarship program which provides support to children from families who cannot afford to attend school. We place a book to represent the possibilities that education provides.

A book is placed on the focus space.

Student 1: In Ethiopia, the people we support are witnesses to the mission of Jesus as they are empowered, through these projects, to live life to the full. We place a candle to reflect the light of Christ.

A lit candle is placed on the focus space.

Student 1: That we may be informed of the good work of the Church in Ethiopia, let us watch a video presentation prepared by Catholic Mission.

The Catholic Mission video is played.

Student 2: Please stand for our gathering hymn.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathering Hymn

Please stand

Hearts On Fire - Michael Mangan

We come from ancient dreamtime
From the bush, or by the sea.
We come from a thousand city streets.
We are the rich and lowly,
We are the poor and strong.
We come to share this moment,
Gathering here, singing one song.

Chorus

WITH OUR HEARTS ON FIRE
WITH THE LOVE OF JESUS.
HEARTS ON FIRE, LET'S SPREAD THE WORD.
HEARTS ON FIRE, FEEL THE SPIRIT BLAZING.
HEARTS ON FIRE,
CALLED TO LIVE THE GOODNEWS
IN THIS LAND.
SETTING HEARTS ON FIRE,
WITH OUR HEARTS ON FIRE,
SETTING HEARTS ON FIRE.

We long to live in freedom,
we yearn for unity.
We dream of justice, joy and peace.
Spirit fill us with your power.
Jesus help us live your call.
O Creator give us wisdom, So we will be Good News for all.

Chorus

We are the voice of Jesus
We are his heart and hands
We are his body in our land
Stand up! Live the story
To all the world proclaim
Go out to all creation
Lighting the fire, fanning the flames

Chorus

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Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Presider: We gather as followers of Jesus called to life and mission.

We gather ... In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Slight pause before proceeding.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:6-8)

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Pause in silence for personal reflection on the reading.

Responsorial Psalm - Sung

I Am Wonderfully Made - Richard Cootes

I PRAISE YOU. I THANK YOU,
FOR I AM WONDERFULLY MADE.
I PRAISE YOU. I THANK YOU.
I PRAISE AND BLESS YOU, LORD,
FOR I AM WONDERFULLY MADE.

You search me. You know me.
You know my resting. You know my rising.
You search me. You know me.
All my ways lie open to you.

It was you, who made me,
Knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you for my being,
For the wonders of all your creation.

You knew my soul, you knew my soul,
And my body held no secret from you,
When I was fashioned, in secret,
And moulded in the depths of the earth.

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Pause in silence for personal reflection.

Gospel Acclamation

The Book of the Gospels is held aloft and processed to the lectern as the Gospel acclamation is sung.

Alleluia (Your Word is a Lamp)- Richard Cootes

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Allelu Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia
Alleluia! Alleluia
Allelu Alleluia!**

Your word O Lord is a Lamp
A Lamp for my steps.
Your Word O Lord is a Light
A Light for my path.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Allelu Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia
Alleluia! Alleluia
Allelu Alleluia!**

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Gospel

Please remain seated.

The proclamation of the Gospel is accompanied by a dramatic presentation. The Minister proclaims the narrator's part from the Ambo.


Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your Spirit.**

Minister: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
(Mt 13:1-9)

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Minister: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew -
The Parable of the Sower

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears  listen!"

The Gospel of the Lord

ALL: **Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.**

Reflection

Student 1: The first reading and the Gospel connect with Catholic Mission's focus in Ethiopia. The work being done at Lideta Catholic Cathedral School reflects the mission of Christ through the living witness of all involved.

Student 2: In the first reading, when Jesus is asked about the kingdom, he invokes the Holy Spirit and describes its fulfilment in being a witness to his mission "to the ends of the earth."

Student 1: In the Gospel, we hear about the sower whose seeds fall on the path, rocky ground and among thorns. Then finally they fall on good soil and grow in abundance. "Let anyone with ears[a] listen!"

Student 2: That we may be informed of the good work of the Church in Ethiopia, let us watch a video presentation prepared by Catholic Mission.

The Catholic Mission video is played.

Universal Prayer

Please stand.

Presider: It is our responsibility as God's people to pray for the needs of the Church and the world. We pray for change: in ourselves and in the circumstances of those in need, particularly in Ethiopia.

Reader: For missionaries, that they will accompany, with compassion, those whose lives are affected by crushing poverty.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all refugee families, that they will find safe haven and welcome in places that show kindness to strangers.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church in Ethiopia, that it will continue to work in harmony with its culture and people.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who continue to be affected by the coronavirus pandemic, that they may find relief and recovery.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For Pope Francis, that he will continue to lead the world towards, mercy, tenderness, and healing.
Lord, hear us

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presider: God of all people, fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit that we will act justly to rid our world of all that harms our brothers and sisters. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Student 2: Together let us say the words that Jesus taught us.

**All: Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen**

Student 1: Let us go forth from this place to love and serve the Lord.

Recessional Hymn

The liturgical procession takes place as usual.

Recessional Hymn is Sung

Just a Little Bit - Sweetman, Beiers, Thomsen & Smith

Chorus

Just a little gift that you can share
Just a little bit to show you care for others, sisters and brothers,
Just a little kick in the right direction
Just a little prayer and devotion in Jesus' name.
You can be the change

Verse 1:

All the times you've felt the blessing
of living in this Ancient Land
All the gifts that you've been given
Hold them lightly in your hand.

Chorus

Verse 2:

All the days, in different seasons,
You've planted seeds and watched them grow
Soon you'll see the harvest coming, through the kindness that you
show.

Just a little bit - Whoa x3

Get up off the couch and change the world

Chorus

Just a little bit just a little bit.....

Acknowledgements

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- Collect: The Roman Missal (Third Typical Edition, Ritual Edition) pg 463
- Prayer over the Offerings: Masses for Various Needs and Occasions – for the Evangelisation of Peoples (Missal p. 1343) Tweaked.
- Prayer After Communion: Masses for Various Needs and Occasions – for Reconciliation (Missal p. 1335) Tweaked.

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'Just a Little Bit' – lyrics by D. Sweetman, M. Beiers, L. Thomsen & A. Smith.
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