**Hymn** Be still for the presence of the Lord

**As the Hymn is sung light Candle in front of Icon**

**Introductory Antiphon**

As he stepped ashore Jesus saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length. (Mark 6: 34)

**Introduction**

As we celebrate 100 years of Catholic Education, we turn to Christ, the source of everything we know and understand about life and living, to help us give thanks for the past 100 years and plan for the future.

Christ is the perfect teacher, who teaches by word and example and who practises what he preaches; Christ, who’s public pronouncements reflect his private faith. Therefore, everything that Christ says and does is a moment for us to learn from the Master and apply to our lives.

As the perfect teacher, Christ sets out to answer the questions we have about life and there are many examples in Scripture, of Christ answering the questions of life and living.

Through recognising that Jesus is the Son of God, who not only calls us to love God and our neighbour, but shows us how to practise our faith, we learn what it means to follow the teachings of Christ.

Through our time of prayer, we turn to Jesus the Teacher and ask him to help us to understand our faith. Through the questions he asked and the answers he gave, Christ teaches us what it means to follow him and why we are right to do so.

Let us listen to the Word of God to understand who Jesus is and his desire for our lives; why we follow him and how we should practise our faith.

Christ teaches us in the questions he asks and the answers he gives, and in this holy hour we take some time to reflect on some questions which explain who Christ is and why we follow him.

The questions being:

* Who do you say I am?
* What do you want me to do for you?
* Which is the greatest commandment of the law?
* Who is my neighbour?

**Matthew 16, 13 – 18**

*Who do you say I am?*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he said, ‘Who do you say I am?’ Then Simon Peter spoke up, ‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘The Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because, it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. So, I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.’

**Reflection**

In his discussion with Simon Peter and the Disciples we are faced with the starting point of our faith in God.

Who do you say I am? is the fundamental question of our lives.

The answer to this question shapes every aspect of our lives.

Saying, Jesus is the Son of the living God, influences how we look at the world and it influences how we live together.

In declaring our faith in God, we are dedicating ourselves to looking at things through the eyes of faith and to see God there:

* in the smallest act of kindness,
* the whispered word of love
* and the faintest charitable thought.

And when we join Simon Peter in declaring that Jesus is the Son of the Living God, we join him in accepting that following Jesus’ teaching:

* is the only way for us to live
* is based on love
* brings us peace in this life and the happiness of eternal life.

**Hymn** He is Lord, He is Lord

**Prayer**

Jesus the Teacher,

Help us to live up to the name of Christian.

May we love our God, our neighbour and ourselves,

May we trust you with every aspect of our lives,

So that we will inherit eternal life.

May we continue to build your Church

Through practising our faith in you as the Son of the living God.

We make these and all our prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Bartimaeus, the blind Beggar: Mark 10: 46 -52**

*What do you want me to do for you?*

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, ‘Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.’ And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, ‘Son of David, have pity on me.’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him here.’ So, they called the blind man. ‘Courage,’ they said to him ‘get up; he is calling you.’ So, throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Rabbuni,’ the blind man said to him, ‘Master, let me see again.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has saved you.’ And immediately his sight returned, and he followed him along the road.

**Reflection**

In his discussion with Bartimaeus, the blind beggar,

we see the perfect response of the Christian to Christ:

Trust!

Bartimaeus completely trusts Christ.

That’s why he begins to shout out

and that’s why he continues to shout out when people tell him to be quiet!

He may be physically blind,

but spiritually his eyes are open

and he can see clearly that this Son of David can help him to live his life.

Bartimaeus’ prayer is not silent and it’s not elegant.

It’s loud and brash, but most importantly it’s from his heart.

He knows what God can do

and he knows that Christ will not disappoint him.

He cries out in prayer and God answers his cries,

Leading Bartimaeus to follow Christ along the road.

A sign that Bartimaeus is a disciple and that he will entrust his whole life to God.

Let us join Bartimaeus and follow Christ, the Son of David, along the road of our lives.

**Hymn** Spirit of God (Mallaig Sprinkling Song)

**Prayer**

Jesus the Teacher,

Help us to live our lives.

May we turn to you in our sorrows

And place you at the heart of our celebrations.

So, that in all things and at all times

we will follow you.

May we never be afraid to call upon your name

And may we encourage each other to imitate you in love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**The Lawyer: Matthew 22, 34 – 40**

*Which is the greatest commandment of the law?*

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him, he said, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law? Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets also.

**Reflection**

In his discussion with the Lawyer, Jesus answers the question of ‘what is a Christian?’

In answering his question, ‘Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Christ teaches us that Christianity is based on keeping God’s commandments.

Not because we scared of getting caught or being punished,

But, we keep God’s commandments because we love God.

When we love someone, we want the best for them

And we will do everything in our power to make them happy.

Christ is the perfect example of this love,

As he was willing to carry the Cross,

So that we could have eternal happiness.

He did this because he loves us.

And when we say we love God,

We devote ourselves to love and respect everything he has created –

we love our neighbour and love ourselves.

In this we are at one with God.

In loving God,

We choose our words and actions carefully,

so that we will keep God’s commandments and teach others to do the same.

**Hymn** This is my body, broken for you

**Prayer**

Jesus our Teacher,

Help us to practise our faith.

May we love you with our hearts, souls and minds,

So that everything we say and do

Will show that we love you and our neighbours as ourselves.

May our happiness be found in doing your will,

And may share in the eternal life you promise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**The Good Samaritan: Luke 10: 28 – 37**

Who is my neighbour?

The Lawyer wanting to justify himself, asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

The next day he took out two denariiand gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

**Reflection**

In the discussion between Christ and the Lawyer,

we learn that our faith in God is not just words or mere talk,

but it affects the way we treat other people.

God’s commandments not only help us to see the world as Christ sees it,

But, God’s commandments help us to live like Christ in the world.

There is a practical aspect to following Christ and being a Christian

And the parable of the Good Samaritan sets out what it means

when we say we love God and our neighbour as ourselves.

This Parable shows us that our neighbour is everybody and anybody,

they are the closest members of our family

and they are strangers we have never met –

all deserving of our respect, all deserving of our love.

They give us an opportunity to practise our faith and grow closer to God,

as we sacrifice ourselves, as he sacrificed himself

going out of our way to love those in need.

**Hymn** Christ be beside me

**Prayer**

Jesus our Teacher,

Help us to see the world as you see it.

May we not only respect our neighbour,

But do everything within our power to help them to truly live.

May we use everything we have to build your Church

and as you gave your life to us may we give our lives to you

And inherit eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Litany of Jesus the Teacher**

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, our Teacher Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Lord Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Saviour Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Way Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Truth Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Life Teach us the Way.

Jesus, the Son of God Teach us the Way.

Jesus, the Son of Man Teach us the Way.

Jesus, the Son of David Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Lawgiver Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Neighbour Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Friend Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Master Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Healer Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Light Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Happiness and Love Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Peace and Joy Teach us the Way.

Jesus, our Faith and Hope Teach us the Way.

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer, Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

**Our Father**

**Concluding Prayer**

Jesus our Teacher,

in your love for us,

help us to develop our own talents

so that we may become like you

and lead lives of goodness.

Bless all learners and all teachers.

May our Catholic schools

continue to serve

our families,

our communities

and our country.

Help us,

through our learning,

To believe in you

And to celebrate

the life of your Church.

Help us to grow in holiness

As we grow in friendship with you

And try to become your saints.

We make this prayer

In the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Amen. (SCES Prayer)

Hymn: Majesty