

Fifty years from now,

Fifty years from now,
It will not matter

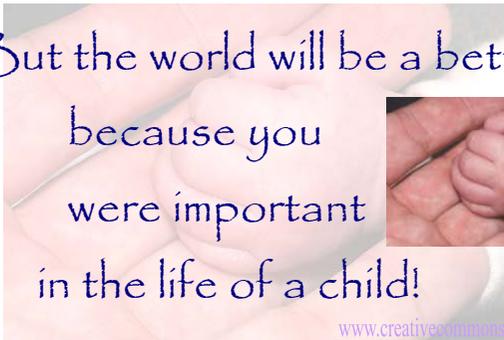
What kind of car you drove ...

What kind of house you lived in ...

How much you had in your bank account ...

Or what your clothes looked like...

But the world will be a better place
because you
were important
in the life of a child!



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adapted from Forest Witcraft - Within My Power



Your Broken Bay Catholic School
Parent Council



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Parents & Friends

Prayers



Susan Daly

Susan Daly

Parents Walking Together in Partnership with School and Parish.

Building Community



***We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land,
who long before us lived, loved, explored, protected the
land and raised their children.
We come together tonight for our children to explore,
to create, to learn, to laugh, to share ...***

LEADER:

*A beginning always draws us into the unknown.
We don't know what will challenge us, delight, sadden
or surprise us.
What we do know however, is that we can walk
in the confidence and knowledge of our God.
So as we gather as a Catholic Community,
in faith we pray*



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For those who walked and worked before us to form our parent groups

ALL: Lord for this we pray

For those continuing the journey, may they be renewed and refreshed

ALL: Lord for this we pray

For those who are joining our journey, may we be welcoming and thankful of the unique talents and gifts they bring

ALL: Lord for this we pray

For those at home who enable us to be here tonight and in all our volunteer work through their love, support, and understanding

ALL: Lord for this we pray

For all the parents and children for whom we are here.

ALL: Lord for this we pray

ALL:

Lord, may our school community reflect everything that is truly good and be ever mindful of our true purpose.
Help us to be conscious of your constant presence with us, and let us go forward with great hope that all things are possible with you.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

AMEN

C. Renfrew

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A Purposeful Journey

From the hectic pace and chaos of our lives
We seek a quietness
And with trust we yield ourselves to this moment,
To the Presence that gives us life.... *C. Renfrew*



It is in the quiet that we hear you Lord –



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You come to us,
You nurture us,
You speak to us ...

*“You are my instruments of life and love.
I will take you on a journey*

*Trust!
Respond!*



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*Share my life and love with those you meet along the way!
The power of love within you will break the chains
of despondency and despair in our children
and open them to life
Through you I heal the broken hearted.
Through you I bring comfort.
You are my instruments of life and love.”*

Inspired by Prayers from

Grace Adolphsen Brame & Kathleen Byrnes.

As we gather together ...

We acknowledge the *traditional owners* of this land,
who long before us lived, loved, explored, protected the
land and raised their children.
We come together tonight for *our children* to explore,
to create, to learn, to laugh, to share...

Jesus said –
“*I am the way, the truth and the life.*”

LORD

Teach us through your Spirit
to walk your way of light,
to live your way of truth
and in all things to act
with love & compassion.

May we be wise in our discernment
balanced in our judgement
fair in our decisions
and visionary in our planning.

May we be mindful to acknowledge
the unique gifts You have given each of us,
by sharing them unreservedly,
and being ever open to others contributions.
Guided by our common goals - our children

We ask this through Christ our Lord

AMEN

Adapted from www.prayingeachday.org



Looking after Ourselves ...

*We acknowledge the traditional owners of
this land, who long before us lived, loved,
explored, protected the land & raised their children.
We come together tonight for our children
to explore, to create, to learn, to laugh, to share ...*

Jesus said ...

*“You are the light of the world,
your light must shine before others”*



What type of light are we –

Some feel called
to be a spotlight,
a coloured light,
a strobe light
or a photo flash,
others
a constant steady light.



Some use their light to entertain,
some to lead,
others to illuminate the way
so that others may be guided on their way,
whilst others light offers comfort.

Whichever light we are,
we all need ‘recharging’,
we need to care for our selves
so that our light can continue to

Susan Daly



and

**We need to remain connected
to the One that gave us our life
- and our light.**



Amen

A Parents Journey

As humans we are not perfect
& we are not meant to be.
The best we can do,
is to be the best we can be.

Lord,
As Parents
Teach us to accept our children
for who they are,
so that in turn
they may have the courage
to be true to themselves.
To learn all that they can
so that they can do their life's
work that awaits them.,
And in doing so,
make a difference in our world.

Being a Parent can be challenging
and sometimes just plain hard.

Lord,
Amidst all our worries,
the frustrations and irritations
of our busy lives,
When we questions ourselves as parents...
let us take time to share in our children's sense of wonder
and enjoy them as they grow.

Let our presence,
be our present to them.
Knowing that one day we will rejoice
In the adult they have become.

Amen

C.Renfrew

(For After Easter)

The Simon In All of Us

LEADER:

We gather again together with renewed energy and life
after the joy of Easter Sunday.

The sadness and pain of Jesus' tragic journey
to Calvary seems so distant,
now that we have celebrated the joyous
hope that is ours in the Resurrection.

So too Good Friday and the example of
all those who assisted Jesus along the way, can seem so
far removed from our everyday lives as parents.

Yet the message from them transcends 2000 years and is as
relevant and powerful today,
because they like Simon of the Cross, who shared the physical
burden with Jesus were real humans - just like us.

And there is a Simon of the Cross, in all of Us.

ALL:

Jesus, help me to remember in the seemingly ordinariness
that is our lives, that every time I wipe a dish, dry a tear,
attend a meeting or lend my hand in anyway,
it matters not to whom - my name is Simon,
and the kindness I extent to them I give to you Lord.

AMEN



Releasing the Angel Within

One day a man
came upon Michelangelo
as he was chipping away
with his chisel
at a huge shapeless
piece of marble.



He asked the sculptor what he was doing.



***"I am releasing the angel
imprisoned in this marble,"***

Michelangelo answered.



As Parents,
may our 'chisel' be gentle,
as with care and respect we
enable and encourage the true
beauty of each child to be released.

As they 'emerge',
may we assist them with the
skills they will need
to achieve their potential,
and the ability to accept themselves
for who they are,
and so truly own their unique gifts, qualities,
and inner beauty.



Amen

*Adapted from an extract in
[A Canopy of Stars: Some Reflections for the Journey](#)*

I dreamed I stood in a studio

I dreamed I stood in a studio
and watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind
and they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher – the tools he used
were books and music and art:
and one was a parent – with a guiding hand,
and a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled
with a touch that was loving and sure
while the parent laboured by his side
and polished and smoothed it some more.

And when at last their task was done,
they were proud of what they'd wrought.
For the things they had put into the child
could neither be sold or bought.

And each agreed he would have failed
if he had worked alone,
for behind the parent stood the school,
and behind the teacher stood the home.



Cleo V. Swarat

In our Unpredictable World

Leader:

We acknowledge the *traditional owners* of this land,
who long before us lived, loved, explored, protected the
land and raised their children.

All:

We come together tonight for **our** children
to explore , to learn, to laugh, to share ...



Leader:

In our unpredictable world, we need to help
our children develop



a strong sense of *who* they are
and why they are here,

so they *will* cope
no matter what changes they
may have to deal with in the future



All:

As Parents may we help our children as they grow ,
to develop a strong sense of who they are
and of all the wonderful things in life.

So that when we must let them
go out into the world,
they will cope no matter what changes
they may face in their future.

AMEN

C.Renfrew

Take a moment to listen today

Take a moment to listen today



To what your children are trying to say;
Listen today whatever you do
Or they won't be there to listen to you.

Listen to their problems, Listen to their needs,
Praise their smallest triumphs
Praise their smallest deeds:
Tolerate their chatter, Amplify their laughter
Find out what they're after.

But tell them that you love them,
Every single night,
And although you scold them,
Be sure you hold them:
Tell them "Everything's all right
Tomorrow's looking bright



Take a moment to listen today

To what your children are trying to say:
Listen today whatever you do
And they will come back to listen to you.



*Excerpt from Denis Waitley's
"The Seeds of Greatness Treasury*

I Am Thankful



I Am Thankful

For the teenager playing loud music in his room.
For it means I can hear.

I Am Thankful

For the way they out grow their clothes and shoes so quickly
Because it means that they are healthy.

I Am Thankful

For the never ending piles of washing & ironing
Because it means we have so many clothes to wear

I Am Thankful

For the teenager & friends lazing around the house playing
computer games
Because it means he knows his friends are welcome (and we
can't be *that* big an embarrassment to him – yet!)

I Am Thankful

For my teenager & his friends 'eating
me out of house & home'
Because it means we are fortunate to have food to share



I Am Thankful

For the alarm that goes off early on a Saturday morning
Because it means my kids are healthy enough to play sport

I Am Thankful

For the teenager who is complaining about doing the dishes,
cleaning their room and putting the garbage out.
Because at least they are still talking to us!



But most of all it means they are safe at home
with us - not on the streets!

AMEN

Listen

When I ask you to listen to me
and you start giving advice
you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me
and you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel
that way, you are trampling on my feelings.

Susan Daly

When I ask you to listen to me
And you feel you have to do something to
solve my problems, you have failed me,
strange as that may seem.

LISTEN! All I ask is that you listen.
Not talk or do – just hear me.

I can DO for myself; I'm not helpless.

Maybe discouraged and faltering, but not helpless.

When you do something for me that I can and need to do
myself – no matter how well meant, you contribute to my fear
and weakness.

But when you accept as a simple fact,
that I do feel what I feel,
no matter how irrational, then I quit trying to convince you
and can get about
the business of understanding what's behind these irrational
feelings.

And when that's clear, the answer's are obvious and I don't
need advice.

So, please listen and just hear me,
and if you want to talk,
wait a minute for your turn;
and I'll listen to you.

Susan Daly

Developing the Gifts of the Community

A community is like an orchestra.
Each instrument is beautiful when it plays alone,
but when they all play together,
each given its own weight in tune,
the result is even more beautiful!



A Diocesan Community is like an orchestra as well.
Each child, teacher, school,
Family & parish member
bears witness to the beauty of God
creator and conductor



Each member of a community
shares their gifts on a daily basis
- and when people use their gifts,
it is important that the community
recognizes and values their contribution.

Each is unique,
each is different,
each is valuable.



As a community it is important
that we pray for the gifts of others,
it is important that the community prays
for each person to be more open and more
an instrument of God,
so that they can use their gifts better.
If we participate and celebrate in
each other's gifts, we help each other
build community

We Celebrate our Community!

adapted from Jean Varnier - Community and Growth 1979

Partners Together

*"When you are inspired by some great purpose,
some extraordinary project,
all your thoughts break their bounds.
Your mind transcends limitations,
your consciousness expands in every direction
and you find yourself in a new,
great and wonderful world.
Dormant forces, faculties and talents become alive,
and you discover yourself to be a greater person
by far than you ever dreamed yourself to be."
Patanjali*



As we gather together as a community,
May we be inspired by our projects
As we take this initial step on a new path,
May we transcend our limitations,
and our dormant talents become alive.
May Jesus always be our Touchstone
Teachers, Parents, Children Together
Partners in our Accomplishments.
Together may we all let our light shine.

Amen

Adapted from Yoga Sutras of Patanjali