

USING THESE PRAYER RESOURCES

Prayer is essential at the commencement of all meetings for focus, to remind participants of their part in God's mission and to call God's blessings on the proceedings. Prayer time is also formative as it allows those present to examine aspects of life, faith and experience.

The prayers in this package focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy and their application personally and communally within Catholic organisations.

The structure of each prayer is the same:

- **A quote, picture or other focus for gathering** – quiet background music is recommended for this part of the prayer or the lighting of a candle. A focus question has been included. (Allow 3 to 5 minutes for this section).
- **A scripture or other chosen reading** is provided with a short conceptual or contextual statement if needed. Once the reading has been shared, a few minutes of quiet contemplation should be allowed (allow 3 to 5 minutes for this section).
- **A sharing of responses which is critical for formation** and the development of a community of prayer. Leaders should stress that reflection time is not commentary on the thoughts of others but simply a time to share what ideas or thoughts the questions and readings have raised (allow 7 to 10 minutes for this section).
- **Prayer** which can be led by one of the participants or said together. At this time, any specific prayer intentions or remembrances could be included. (Allow 3 to 5 minutes for this section).

Depending on the level of sharing it is estimated that these reflections will take 15 to 20 minutes. They are offered as a guide to the Corporal Works of Mercy and can be supplemented with additional readings.

They let in the Spirit of wisdom, presence, thanksgiving and communion.

They invite participants to open their hearts to new ways of seeing and understanding.

They bring God to the forefront of the meeting: its business, concerns, challenges and interactions.

This prayer resource includes suggestions for practical, everyday action to live the Corporal Works of Mercy. They are just some ways we can bring God's mercy into our world.

*Let us not be closed to the
newness that God wants to bring
into our lives ... Mercy is the Lord's
most powerful message ... (Pope Francis)*

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for your Board: www.mercypartners.org.au/prayer-resources