

# St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School

## Collective Worship

The format of each assembly should be as follows:

1. Gathering - the introduction
2. Listening - the teaching
3. Responding - the interaction with "the assembly"
4. Mission - the message/challenge for the day ahead

### Gathering

- Gathering together is special - have a focus for prayer around which to gather
- Dress the altar/focus for prayer with the children
- Use symbols - a lighted candle, a cross, a Bible, a statue, symbols of the liturgical season
- Use the greeting we use at Mass - the sign of the Cross, "The Lord be with you", holy water
- Use music - to set the scene

### Listening

- To prayer
- To the Word of God - reading the Scripture - this is what God wants to share with us - the message for us today.
- Readings from other sources which support themes - SEAL materials.

We should teach the children to mark the Gospel reading with crosses - to say or to think: May the words of Jesus be in our minds and on our lips and in our hearts.

It is often useful to mime or role play to engage the children in the text.

### Responding

We respond in different ways:

- We give thanks and praise to God in prayer or song
- We make intercessions through the formal prayers of the church, through imaginative prayer
- We pray silently - listening to what God has to say to us in our stillness and silence.

### Mission

This is a plenary. It gives us the springboard or challenge for the day. It reminds us how the message of the assembly affects our lives.