

# Before you use this book



## What is this book and who is it for?

An annual liturgical prayer resource:

- ☞ containing day by day prayer – Daily Prayer (Monday to Friday) for the current school year, and Weekly Prayer based on the coming Sunday gospel
- ☞ for students in parish schools, in parish religious education/sacramental classes or in religious education classes in government schools

## What is different about this prayer resource?

It is based on the church's long tradition of praying at certain times of the day – the Liturgy of the Hours. It uses:

- ☞ psalms
- ☞ scripture readings
- ☞ reflection on the scriptures
- ☞ intercessions (At the beginning of the year, encourage children to write in names on their birth dates and names of deceased relatives and friends on anniversary dates)

## What are the prayer 'times' in this book?

For parish schools:

- ☞ The beginning of the school day – Daily Prayer, Monday to Friday
- ☞ Lunchtime – Meal Prayer
- ☞ Home time – End of the Day Prayer

For weekly religious education/sacramental classes:

- ☞ at the beginning of class

## Why use this book?

*Children's Daily Prayer Under the Southern Cross:*

- ☞ is 'all there' and hence, user-friendly
- ☞ is led by students
- ☞ helps students to pray with the scriptures
- ☞ builds familiarity with the saints of our tradition, as well as 'prophets and peace-makers' of our own time
- ☞ broadens students' horizons by reference to the important celebrations of other faiths
- ☞ enables students to bring together prayer and daily life
- ☞ introduces students to a way of praying which might sustain them throughout their lives
- ☞ helps students to pray with the mind and heart of the church

## Why a new book each year?

*Children's Daily Prayer Under the Southern Cross* is like a new diary. Right there on the right day and the right date and on the right page are the prayers and readings for every day of the school year.

### Why a book for each CLASSROOM?

- ☞ students can participate in ritual action
- ☞ students can take their turn in leading regular class prayer
- ☞ students can voice their own individual concerns in prayer
- ☞ classes can choose their own hymns

### Who else might use this book?

This book can be used:

- ☞ to begin staff prayer and other school-based meetings
- ☞ by students in any Christian schools
- ☞ to begin parish meetings
- ☞ by RCIA groups
- ☞ by ministers on their visits to the sick
- ☞ as a resource for family prayer

## Organisation and Content

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### How is the book arranged?

The book is arranged by:

- ☞ months (from February)
- ☞ the liturgical seasons

### What does each month or liturgical season contain?

For each month or liturgical season there is:

- ☞ An introduction called Looking Ahead
- ☞ A Psalm for Daily Prayer for the month or the season
- ☞ A Meal Prayer for the month or liturgical season
- ☞ An End of the Day Prayer for the month or liturgical season
- ☞ Days and celebrations particular to each month or liturgical season
- ☞ Daily Prayer (Monday to Friday)
- ☞ Weekly Prayer (using the gospel for the current Sunday cycle)

### What is the pattern for Daily Prayer and Weekly Prayer?

The pattern for *Daily Prayer* and *Weekly Prayer* is:

- ☞ An Introduction to help focus the prayer for the day
- ☞ A Psalm for the month or season
- ☞ A Scripture Reading

- ☞ A Reflection on the scripture reading
- ☞ A time for Prayers of Intercession
- ☞ A Closing Prayer

### How are the Scriptures organised?

*Children's Daily Prayer Under the Southern Cross*

- ☞ Daily Prayer (Monday to Friday) has its own schema of readings for designed to introduce students to the great figures, epic stories and major themes of the bible. This schema is not linked to the daily mass readings
- ☞ includes in Daily Prayer (Monday – Friday) some weeks of readings from the gospel writer for the current Sunday cycle
- ☞ spreads longer readings over a number of days. To keep the continuity and to gain maximum benefit the full sequence needs to be read on the indicated days
- ☞ uses for Weekly Prayer, the Gospel reading for the current Sunday
- ☞ uses the same scripture translation as the Lectionary for Masses with Children

# For the Teacher or Catechist

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## What is the best way to use the book?

- ☞ One book for each classroom, shared by the leader and reader
- ☞ Copies of the Psalm, Meal and End of the Day Prayers for each student. (Do these copies in seasonal colours and have students insert them into prayer folders, which they might make at the beginning of the year)
- ☞ Student leadership – leader and reader
- ☞ Familiarity with the Looking Ahead pages
- ☞ Regular use

## What about music?

- ☞ See the Looking Ahead pages for suggestions
- ☞ Hymns are mainly from the collections *Gather Australia (GA)* and *As One Voice (AOV)*
- ☞ Basis of selection is the liturgical season or feast being celebrated, suitability for students and what they are likely to hear in their parish Sunday assemblies
- ☞ Important to have a short repertoire of some settings of 'Alleluia', 'Verse before the Gospel' (for Lent), 'Word' refrains which can be sung before or after the scripture reading
- ☞ For other useful collections of music for the liturgy, see the 'Helpful Resources' (page 378)

# For the Student Leader and Reader

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## When leading or reading:

- ☞ Stand up straight. This gives the prayer dignity and establishes a student's ministerial role
- ☞ Slow everything down – the pace of reading, walking, lighting the candle
- ☞ Exaggerate everything a bit – reading, bowing, signing, blessing

## Instructions for the Leader

- ☞ Find the page with the correct date and mark it with a ribbon of the seasonal colour.
- ☞ Turn to the Psalm. There is always a page reference that tells you where to find it. Mark it also with a ribbon.
- ☞ Practise the Introduction and the Closing.
- ☞ Check with the teacher to see if you will read and discuss all or particular Reflection questions.

- ☞ Practise the parts of the Psalm marked 'Leader' and 'Side A'.
- ☞ To begin, announce the hymn if there is to be one, and any acclamations, and say where they will be sung. Then start with the Introduction.
- ☞ Practise giving blessings.

## Instructions for the Reader

- ☞ Find the page with the correct date.
- ☞ Practise the reading on that page.
- ☞ Turn to the Psalm. You will lead the parts marked 'Side B'.
- ☞ Practise the parts of the Closing in heavier print. You will lead them.
- ☞ Indicate to the class with your arm when to say the parts in heavier print.