



“Where Two Or Three Meet In My Name...”

Week commencing
11th September 2023

This Sunday we celebrated the **175th anniversary of Education Sunday** – one of the oldest ‘Days of Special Prayer’ in the Church calendar. To celebrate this special anniversary children will be quizzed with fun facts and, with the help of a special guest, **learn how our schools contribute to the mission of the Church.**

Key Scripture

Matthew 18:15-20

“For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.”

Matthew 18:20

Key Messages

Children will learn that:

- Our schools are part of the mission of the Church
- As we learn, we grow in mind, body and spirit
- Jesus is always with us as our role model

Success Criteria

Children will:

- Engage with the video and teaching
- Have an opportunity to reflect with thankfulness

Resource Materials

- PowerPoint Presentation
- **Appendix 1 – Gospel Reading**
- **Appendix 2a – Prayers of Intercession**

Preparation Notes

- Prepare a child to read the Gospel in Appendix 1.
- Prepare 2-6 children to read the Prayers in Appendix 2a.
- There is additional KS2 material on Slide 5. Assemblies involving EYFS/KS1 pupils may use this content or not as preferred.

Hymn Suggestion



Traditional: ‘All People That On Earth Do Dwell’

Traditional: ‘I Will Be With You’ by Gerald Markland

Contemporary: [Can I Get An Amen? by Lakeland Music](#)

Contemporary: [Gather, Gather by CJM Music](#)

Scan the QR code to access our Autumn Collective Worship playlist on Spotify!

One-page Summary

1. Fun School Facts

(3 min)



Slide 1 Welcome and invite children to start their time of worship by making the **Sign of the Cross**.

Slides 2-10 Ask children what they enjoy at school and engage in a fun facts quiz.

2. "Where Two Or Three Meet In My Name..."

(4 mins)



Slides 11-13 Invite a child to read the Gospel (**Appendix 1**), where Jesus promises to be with us.

KS2 only – Discuss Jesus as a role model.

Slide 14 Introduce Education Sunday, deliver teaching and **click to play** a film.

3. Let's Give Thanks!

(3 mins)



Slide 15 Lead a reflective prayer including prayers of intercession and challenge for the week.

Slide 16 **Click to play** a film of Bishop Marcus leading the closing prayer and blessing.

Total Time

10 mins

Prayer of Preparation

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this opportunity to nurture the faith of the children in my care. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead and guide me as I prepare this assembly and bless each and every child with an open heart and mind to hear your Word.

In your name, Jesus, Amen.

Teacher Script

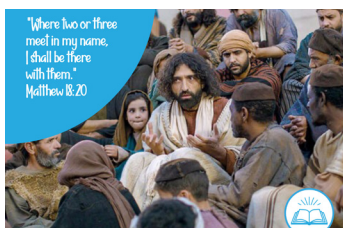
1. Fun School Facts (3 min)

Welcome children and engage in a quiz about schools.



2. "Where Two Or Three Meet In My Name..." (4 mins)

Read the Gospel, introduce Education Sunday and deliver teaching.



Slide 1

Click to reveal the image and invite children to begin their participation in the assembly by making the **Sign of the Cross**.

Slide 2

Ask:

What have you enjoyed about coming back to school?

Invite responses which might include:

- Seeing friends
- Being in a new classroom
- Learning about different topics
- Getting to know new teachers/new routines
- Feeling more grown up/looking after younger pupils

Slides 3-10

Invite children to test their knowledge of schools in a quiz.

- Read the question and multiple-choice answers.
- Gather responses then **click to reveal** the correct answer and fun fact explanations.

Slide 11

Introduce the Gospel by inviting children to listen to what Jesus says about meeting together – just as we are together in assembly.

Read, or invite a child to read the Gospel from **Appendix 1**.



Slide 12

Teaching

Use the following or your own words:

- Jesus' words in this week's Gospel serve as a guide for Catholic schools today. Listen to it again: **"Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them."**
- **At school we meet in Jesus' name**; we are gathered together because of Him.
- Your parents or carers wanted you to come to this school so that you could learn and grow with Jesus and **know that He is with you in all you do!**
- At school, we learn in our lessons, and we also learn how to let Jesus guide our words and actions by praying, listening and noticing good role models – like our teachers.
- Our learning at school helps us to grow in mind, body and spirit, and we can continue Jesus' work by helping each other.



Slide 13

KS2 Only –

Explain that **Jesus is a role model** for everyone in our school community – the students, teachers, support staff, and leaders.

Invite students to consider and respond with examples of how different members of our community can learn from Jesus and allow Him to guide their actions, for example:

- Students – kindness to others
- Teachers and support staff – care and compassion
- Leaders – service

Slide 14

Explain that this week, we are celebrating **the 175th anniversary of Education Sunday** – one of the oldest 'Days of Special Prayer' in the Church calendar.

Invite children to watch a video to find out more and receive a special message of encouragement from Bishop Marcus Stock – Chair of



the Department of Education and Formation for the Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales.

Click to play the film.

3. Let's Give Thanks!

(2 mins)

Lead children in a prayerful reflection and intercessions.



Slide 15

Prayer and Reflection

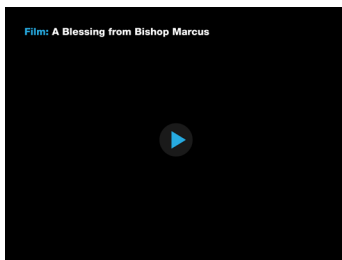
Music plays automatically

Leaving pauses for reflection and prayer, use the following or your own words:

- Jesus said, **"Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them."**
- **Jesus is with us now.** As we spend time with Jesus let's be thankful for our school, our teachers and support staff, our learning and all those who help us to get closer to God.
- Pause for a moment and **think about something you enjoy doing at school.** It might be spending time with your friends, a particular lesson you like, or someone who has helped you.
- **In your mind, say 'thank you' to God.**
- As well as reminding us that He is with us, **Jesus teaches us to share this Good News with others.** In this way, **Catholic schools join with the mission of the Church.**
- So now let's join with schools and parishes across England and Wales as we pray the Prayers of Intercession

Invite 2-6 children to read the prayers of Intercession from **Appendix 2a.** (The response is: **Hear our prayer.**)

- This week, try to reflect on Jesus' words. Whenever you gather to pray in your classroom or when you are focussing on your learning or when you are playing with care and consideration, **remember that Jesus is with you.**



Slide 16

Final Prayer

Click to play the video of Bishop Marcus leading the final prayer and blessing.

Finish with the **Sign of the Cross**.