

LITURGY FOR
SCHOOLS / COLLEGES
FOR OPENING

“THE YEAR OF FAITH”

WEEK OF 8TH – 12TH OCTOBER 2012

Liturgy for Opening 'the Doors of Faith'

Dear Principals and Directors of Religious Studies

In his Apostolic Letter, '**The Door of Faith**', Pope Benedict XVI announced the Year of Faith to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Opening of the Second Vatican Council, and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**.

The idea of a **Year of Faith** is that it be a time re-dedicated to the re-discovery of the joy of believing, and a renewed enthusiasm for meeting Jesus Christ. Pope Benedict says, "*our faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received, and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy.*"

We will enter symbolically through the doors of this Church, but we will receive Christ's love. Jesus Christ attracts us to himself through his love. Where faith is professed, celebrated, lived and prayed, we will be inspired to live such a faith. For the next 14 months every time we enter through the doors of our churches, and schools we pray that we will be drawn deeper into the transforming journey of God's love and grace.

Our task this year is to remember all that God has done, and is doing for us. Our task is to allow God to renew us. Pope Benedict chose the theme '**the door of faith**' as he reflected on the story and the Acts of the Apostles, of Paul and Barnabas, and the particular line that he refers to says, "*on their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all God had done with them, and how he had opened the doors of faith.*"

Let us pray:

Good and gracious God, giver of all gifts,
as we begin this Year of Faith
we ask that the year ahead of us be blessed abundantly.

We give thanks for the gift of faith,
and for the love with which you invite us,
and draw us to yourself.

Help us to share our faith with others
and to give life – your life.

Bless these doors of this School / College of

Every time we go through these doors
remind us of your love and welcome,
Help us to welcome others.

May these doors and the doors of our homes
remind us of the great gift of your love and acceptance.

Read ACTS: 14: 27-28

Lord, open the doors of our hearts

- to receive your love
- to hear your word
- to know your welcome for us.

Open the doors of our hearts
to accept and welcome others.

We remember your words, Lord:

*“Look, I am standing at the door, knocking;
if one of you hears me calling
and opens the door,
I will come to share a meal.”*

Lord, help us to listen to you
knocking at the doors of our hearts.

Through the power of your Spirit living in us,
may our faith grow stronger as we give thanks
and live daily, the joy of knowing
how much you love and care for us.

As we go through these doors
for the first time in this Year of Faith,
we pray that our lives and hearts remain open at all times,
and that this Year of Faith be a time of grace and renewal.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Processional

Hymn – as pupils & staff enter the School / College.