



Evangelii Gaudium

Prayer Module 1

‘The Joy of the Gospel’

Guidelines for Prayer Leaders



Published and developed by the Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand. For questions on the use of this prayer resource, you may email any of the developers:

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Guidelines for Prayer Leaders

For a group of up to 20 people, this prayer can last from 30-60 minutes.

Responsibilities of Prayer Leaders:

Preparation

- a. Familiarise yourselves with the Prayer Module by going through it personally or with a small group first.
- b. If possible, ascertain the number of people coming, as this would be useful in the grouping.
- c. Inform those who want to attend to bring their bibles and have spare bibles available for the prayer.
- d. Set up a Prayer Focus in the middle or centre of the prayer venue. Standard design is a cross, a bible and a candle laid on top of a clean mantle. Be as creative as possible and match the design with the essence of the Prayer Module. The theme of Prayer Module one is JOY, so the prayer focus should evoke joy and happiness. You may want to put Pope Francis laughing or smiling.
- e. Choose the opening song and print out the lyrics (for those who may not know the song). Suit the song with the attendees. We suggest using *The Joy of the Gospel* lyrics by James Lyons to the tune of *Ode to Joy* by Beethoven. Some might like an upbeat song with actions like *Hearts on Fire* by Michael Mangan. You can use another song if you wish. It would be good to practice before the prayer.
- f. Print out a copy each of the Prayer Module.
- g. Before the start of the Prayer, take some time to have the attendees to introduce each other if it is the first time, they are meeting each other.
- h. After the prayer, the group can socialise for a cuppa.

During Prayer

- a) Distribute copies of the Prayer Module along with the General Guidelines. Also include the lyrics of the opening song.
- b) Welcome the attendees by going through the General Guidelines (especially if this the first time you are meeting).
- c) Start the prayer with the sign of the Cross then read the introductions in the Scripture Reading (the text in the box and the introduction before the Scripture Text)
- d) Invite attendees to read a line each of the Scripture
- e) Read the Reflection Questions and invite people to share with a group. Give 20 minutes per question.
- f) Read the introduction 'About Evangelii Gaudium'
- g) Invite readers for the intercessory prayers and then invite the attendees to share their personal intentions
- h) Invite the attendees to say the 'Final Blessing' together and close with the opening song
- i) Thank everyone and invite them for tea
- j) OPTIONAL: If you find this prayer too short, you can watch the video by Bishop Barron

