



Flower Festival Prayer Stations

During launch week you might like to highlight the places in our churches that remind us of the sacraments of initiation. Just as people pray the Stations of the Cross you can set up stations celebrating the gift of being a member of the Church.

People are invited to walk around the church stopping at each station to read a prayer and reflect on the question given. You might like to print the prayer and the question on cards that people can pick up and read or even take with them. Each station can be made attractive with cloths and flowers in suitable colours. They should be clearly numbered to show the order of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and finally being sent out into the world to continue the work of Christ as members of His Body. Footprints stuck along the floor might be used to show the direction for walking around the stations. (See sheet with suggestions for Sunday Mass.) There are just five stations suggested here but you might like to add more, write better prayers, choose different objects to be placed at each station etc. These are just some simple suggestions.

There might be quite a bit of work setting this up. It could be passed over to parish catechists to prepare. At each station there could be a box wrapped to look like a present to remind us that the Sacraments are God's gifts to us.

The themes suggested here can also be used as part of a flower festival in your parish or Pastoral Area celebrating Launch Week and reminding us of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Please remember that these pages contain only suggestions. Your parishioners might have lots of better ideas.

If your church is holding a Holy Hour or other celebration this week you can leave time for the visits to the stations and play quiet music while people prayerfully make their way around the church.

By the Holy Water stoops at the entrance to the church.

This blessed water is a reminder of our baptism when we were washed clean from our sin and given the new life of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You are invited to bless yourself with this water
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, thank you for the gift of baptism.

You live in me.

You give me the fullness of your life.

May I never forget your presence within me.

AMEN

Question for reflection:

In what ways has God blessed me today? What am I grateful for?

At the font.

(e.g. A baptismal Candle, A white baptismal shawl, A wrapped gift, Photographs of baptisms in the church, A bible open at the Baptism of the Lord, blue cloths hinting at the idea of flowing water.)

We pray for all who are baptized at this font.

Thank you for your mercy to us Lord.

At baptism I became a member of Your Church.

All through my life your forgiveness is always present

You alone can wash us clean and give us a new beginning.

Help me to show your love and your forgiveness to those who need them.

AMEN

Question for reflection:

At our baptism we became members of the Body of Christ.

How can I live in a way that makes the love of Christ visibly present in the world?

A place of celebration of Confirmation

(e.g. A bowl of oil, a lit candle, a Bible open on the reading for Pentecost, red and orange cloths hinting at the colour of flames, a wrapped gift, Photographs of a dove or of people carrying out the mission of the Church e.g. preaching, caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, praying etc.)

We pray for all who will be confirmed from our parish in the coming years.

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to be our helper and guide. Give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill us with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. Amen. (From the Rite of Confirmation)

Question for reflection:

Where can I see the Holy Spirit at work in the world and in my life today?

Before the Altar

(e.g. A loaf broken open, grapes: a glass jug of wine or dark grape juice, a Bible open at the institution narrative, a crucifix, A wrapped gift.)

Here we thank God for the gift of the Eucharist.

The gift of the Bread of Life, Jesus, the One who is broken and given,
whose blood is poured out for our forgiveness.

*Jesus, You have invited me to be in communion with You,
To be one with You.*

*Keep me grateful for this wonderful gift.
You have become our blessing and our food.
Help me to be a blessing to others.
AMEN*

Question for reflection:
What can I do each day to help me remember the presence of Christ within me?

By the exit

(A wrapped gift. A basket of prayer cards with the Prayer of St. Teresa for each person to read and to take. A picture of Christ with His hand raised in blessing. A picture of the world.)

*Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.*

attributed to Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Question for reflection:
What have I been reminded of during this visit to church?
How can I show to others the love and forgiveness that God has shown to me?