

Blessing – A picnic service. Jan 28, 2018

Opening Prayer:

Let us sit quietly in God's presence. Just rest and take it all in. If it helps you to focus, pick up a leaf or nut or something and study it in your hand. Let our hearts be open to God's nearness. Allow creation to minister to you. Worship our Creator God with the bush.

A Prayer for Australia – Read together

*Grant, we pray, O Lord our God,
that as the Cross shines in our southern skies,
so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old and new, and by saving
grace,
transform our lives.*

<http://www.northsydneycatholics.com/resources/liturgy/154-ministries/environment-group/701-australia-day-prayers>



*Southern Cross Wedge Tail Eagle Chick Coming Out of Nest.
By Vincent Forrester-Mutitjulu*

Reading

(God said,) 'I will surely bless you.'
Genesis 22:17 (NIV)

BLESS YOU

Devotion from 'Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing' by Sally Lloyd-Jones & Jago

People say, 'Bless you!' when you sneeze.
'Bless' has turned into a bit of a feeble word.

But in the Bible it's much stronger.
(And it has nothing to do with sneezing!)

When God promises to bless you, he is saying,
'I'm going to make you into everything I ever meant for you to be!'

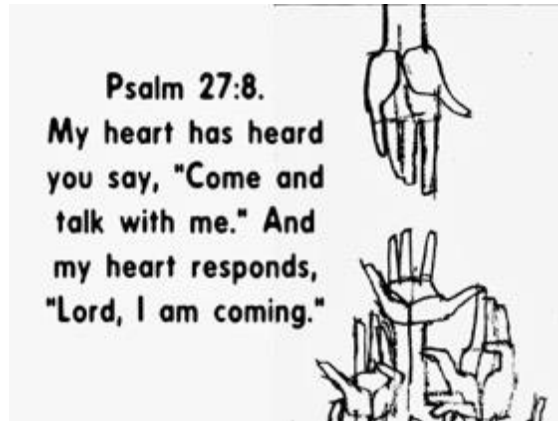
It means God is taking every day and every single thing that happens in it – good or bad – to make you stronger; to mend whatever is broken inside, to change you into the person you were always meant to be.

Just as a caterpillar is completely changed into a butterfly, being blessed means being totally transformed.

God is transforming everything – his broken world – and you.

Reflection

Spent a moment reflecting on this promise that God is blessing us.
What is God breathing into us this morning?
Kids (and adults) you may wish to colour the butterfly as you listen.



Blessing of the Pencil Cases
For all students and educators

Students and educators to stand and share where they will be studying or teaching
and a hope they have for this year.

BLESSING OF THE PENCIL CASES
By Nerida Taylor.

Wise Father, God who is with us
Who watches over our comings and goings
Who holds us and heals us and makes us
Pour out your blessing on the students and teachers in our community
As they embark on new journeys and continue ongoing ones
As you walk with them through the year.

Students and teachers of our community

May you take on this year's adventure with expectant hope and joy.
May you receive reassurance and comfort when you are nervous or scared.

God is with you and God is making you.

May you feel peaceful, safe, valued and strong.

May you be protected and built up when you feel small and vulnerable.
God is with you and God is making you.

May you make rich connections with the people around you.
May you receive love when relationships are hard or hurtful.
God is with you and God is making you.

May you make discoveries, learn new skills, and grow in understanding.
May you receive support when your work feels confusing or overwhelming.
God is with you and God is making you.

May you make many marvellous mistakes on your way to mastery.
May you receive understanding when the disappointment of failure is hard.
God is with you and God is making you.

May you have energy, passion, determination and persistence for your tasks.
May you have adequate rest for your mind, body and spirit.
God is with you and God is making you.

May your unique brilliance be a blessing to your school community,
And may Jesus give light to your way, even on the darkest days.
God is with you and God is making you.

Amen



