

Suggested prayer format (15-20 minutes)

1. access the 'Hope' Resource (<http://www.kildareministries.org.au/hope.html>) via personal device, or on the screen
2. turn to recommended slide
3. either one person read for group, or group read in silence
4. encourage group members to respond to reflection material – questions provided to assist
5. final prayer to close

Leading with Hope



Consolations from the Liberal Party mess

Frank Brennan, 24 August 2018

“What a mess! Poor Fellow My Country. Today is not a day for reckoning about any big policy issues, because none of them was in play when members of the Liberal Party cast their votes in the party room... And the reckoning on issues like climate change, energy policy, tax reform, school funding, the NDIS, migration and population policy, Indigenous constitutional recognition, multiculturalism and freedom of religion requires a functioning parliament and party rooms where deliberation and compromise within the contours of the various party philosophies are possible. To start the policy reckoning for the good of the country, the rules of political engagement need to be clear. And perfidy needs to be punished... For the good of the country, either Scott Morrison or Bill Shorten needs to be given some clear air and a realistic political horizon for passing substantive legislation for the good of the country and as soon as possible. Political revenge, personal perfidy, and a rolling series of by-elections might feed the 24-hour media cycle, but they do nothing for the common good.

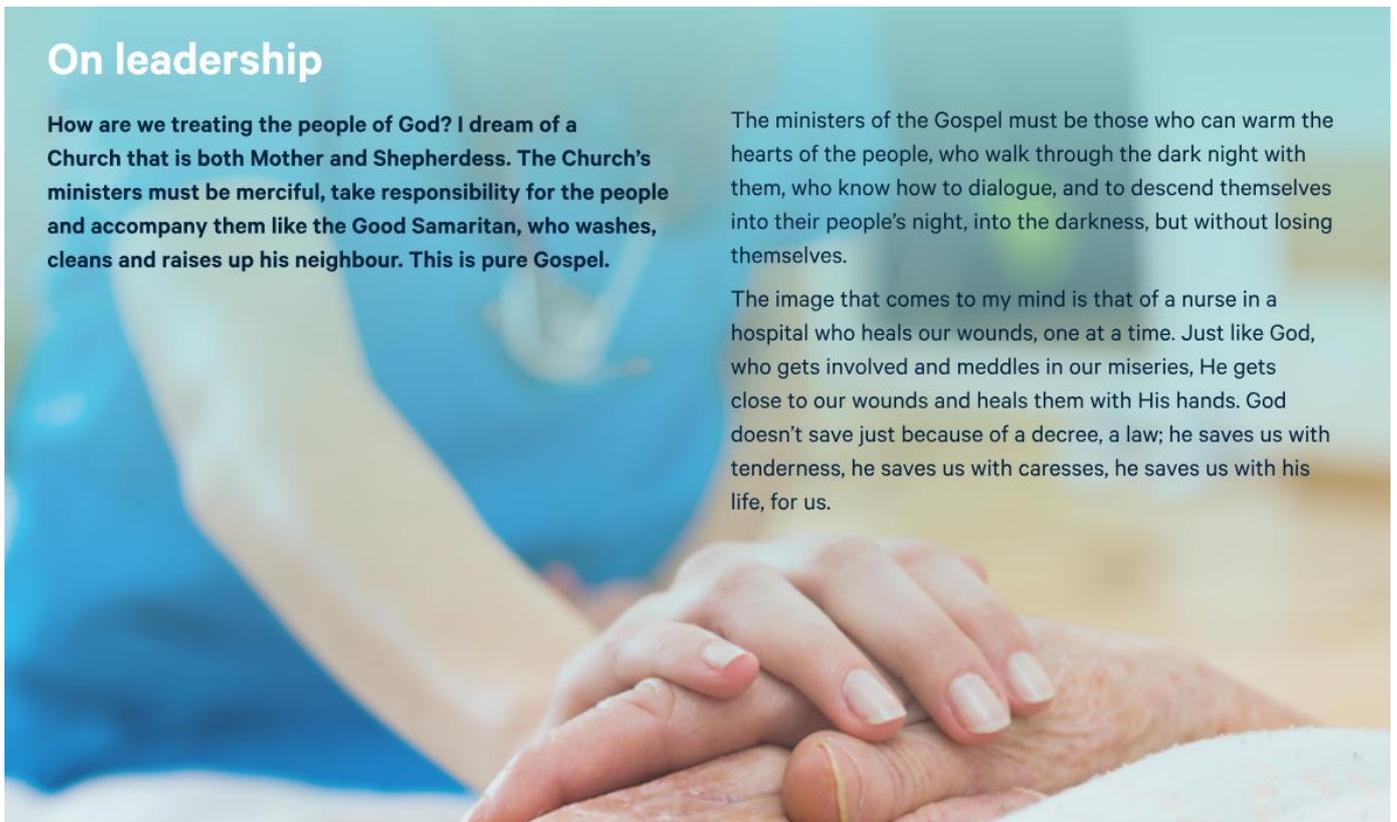
Refer to Slide 8 of the Hope Resource and click on the 'Leadership' link:

On leadership

How are we treating the people of God? I dream of a Church that is both Mother and Shepherdess. The Church's ministers must be merciful, take responsibility for the people and accompany them like the Good Samaritan, who washes, cleans and raises up his neighbour. This is pure Gospel.

The ministers of the Gospel must be those who can warm the hearts of the people, who walk through the dark night with them, who know how to dialogue, and to descend themselves into their people's night, into the darkness, but without losing themselves.

The image that comes to my mind is that of a nurse in a hospital who heals our wounds, one at a time. Just like God, who gets involved and meddles in our miseries, He gets close to our wounds and heals them with His hands. God doesn't save just because of a decree, a law; he saves us with tenderness, he saves us with caresses, he saves us with his life, for us.



Questions to consider for reflection:

Consider the contrast between the leadership espoused by Pope Francis and that on display in our nation's capital during the recent leadership spill.

- It is often said 'in a democracy you get the leaders you deserve'.
What aspects of our national and global society might be invoking this style of leadership?
What responsibility do we have to demand leadership that is more like a 'nurse in a hospital'?
- What are the biggest leadership challenges facing us as board/council?
Facing our ministry leaders?
Our staff?
Our student leaders?
- What can we do to empower our leaders to lead with hope for the common good?

To the Home of Peace

"God invites you to the Home of Peace."
(Quran – Jonah 10:25)

To the home of peace
to the field of love
to the land where forgiveness and right relationship meet
we look, O God,
with longing for earth's children
with compassion for the creatures
with hearts breaking for the nations and people we love.
Open us to visions we have never known
strengthen us for self-givings we have never made
delight us with a oneness we could never have imagined
that we may truly be born of You
makers of peace.

-John Philip Newell, *Praying with the Earth: A Prayerbook for Peace*



Logan, Co-captain of Marian College Ararat providing a tour of the Systems Engineering lab