

Blessing

for a Residential College

GREETING and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HĪMENE | HYMN

INOI | PRAYER

We take a moment in silence
to notice the hum of life around us,
the vitality that pulsates in all things...

We take a moment in silence
to notice living breath in our own lungs,
in and out, every moment a gift,
as we receive and give back the life that is given...

Our simple act of breathing is an act of thankfulness
to the one in whom we live and move and have our being,
the one who sanctifies and dignifies our everyday work and rest.
For this moment together, for fellowship with one another,
we give you thanks. **Amine.**

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR HUMANNESS

...

E te whānau:

***We acknowledge that we are human,
sacred and loved, yet frail and limited.***

We are dependent at every moment
on each other, on the world beneath us,
and ultimately on the one who sustains all life.

E te whānau:

***We acknowledge that we have hurt others
and we have been hurt by others.***

No matter our mistakes, we are sacred and we are loved.

So love others and love yourself.

Amine.

ACT of REMEMBRANCE

These walls are full of memory.

These buildings are like a cradle for our lives to be lived out.

We acknowledge the stories of those who have been here before.

For those who have made lifelong friends
and for those who have been excluded and have felt lonely,

We remember them.

For those who have succeeded and thrived
and for those whose dreams have been dashed,

We remember them.

For those who have been energised and refreshed,
and for those who have burned out and exhausted,

We remember them.

For those who have found themselves,
and for those who have felt disoriented and lost,

We remember them.

For those who have enjoyed good health
And for those who have endured illness,

We remember them.

For those who have been abused
and for those who have felt unsafe in their own home,

We remember them.

We remember them and we honour their stories,
recognising in their experiences something of our own.

We celebrate the moments of joy in this place,
and we lament the moments of darkness,
committing to the ongoing work of birthing lifegiving community
in which all are welcome and all can thrive.

BLESSING of the COLLEGE

Opening of doors and windows

1 ***We open these doors***

so that light may shine into the darkest corner.

2 ***We open these windows***

***so that the wind may blow through these corridors
unsettling the dust, and breathing new breath.***

These buildings are more than a tomb to the past,
they are a living home for our stories to be played out.
May this college be more than a crash pad for those that live here.
May it become a home:

Each of the following lines can be read by a different person:

A place to rest and rejuvenate.

A place to study and learn.

A place for friendship and for solitude.

A place for creativity and recreation.

A place for manaakitanga and welcome.

A place for compassion and healing.

A safe place to be sent from and to return to.

Let it be so. Let it be so. Let it be so.

Ake, ake, ake, Amine.

LIGHTING A CANDLE FOR THE YEAR TO COME

We light this candle as a sign of the hopes we have this year for ourselves, for this community, for our wider society.

Lighting of the candle

You are invited to share a word of hope for the year to come

...for these prayers spoken and unspoken, we give thanks, and to commit them into the hands of God. ***Amine.***

HĪMENE | HYMN

TE MANAAKITANGA