First Assembly 2013 – Starting Afresh, Friday February 1st

Opening Song: Regenerate Me - emmanuelworship

Welcome:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Good morning and welcome to our first assembly in 2013. As we start this school year, we will take a moment to think about our hopes and the opportunities that we are given in this new year. We have the opportunity to start afresh. We have the opportunity to make this year a great year, and to make ourselves better people. This year also marks the continuation of the Year of Grace – which is our opportunity to start afresh in Christ and to seek out the face of Christ in everyone. It is an opportunity to let God in and allow Him to be part of your life. So as we begin this prayer, open up your minds and your hearts to starting afresh in 2013.

Prayer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As we light the Year of Grace candle, may its light be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation.

*[The candle is now lit by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]*

Let us pray in silence, asking for the grace to start afresh from Christ.

[short period of silent prayer]

Luke 2: 22-32: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

Gospel Reflection

Prayers of the Faithful:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We pray that in all we do we may start afresh with Christ, contemplating the face of Jesus. Lord, hear us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We pray for our nation that all Australians may become more deeply aware of the grace of God in their lives. Lord, hear us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We pray that like Simon in the gospel today, we too may recognise God in our lives. Lord, hear us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We pray for the year ahead, that we may make changes for the better and help to make this school a place of peace and joy for all who enter it. Lord, hear us.

Closing Prayer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gracious God,

You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people.

We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ.

You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a new wave of grace,

and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives.

Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit,

that our Church may be transformed, our relationships be healed,

and our nation grow in compassion and justice.

With the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us new ways of living the Gospel,

we make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Closing Song: Your Grace is Enough – Matt Maher