**Assembly Prayer – Lent, 21st Feb 2013**

**Song: Led by Choir –**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Welcome/Introduction**

Good morning everyone and welcome to assembly for today. We are currently in the season of Lent, which is the time to prepare for Easter. Lent lasts for about 40 days and in this time we are challenged to pray, fast (which means giving up luxuries) and to give to the poor. By praying, we connect with God, by fasting we can better understand what the poor go through, and by giving to the poor we are helping others. For example, some people give up chocolate and donate the money that they would have spent to Caritas to buy a chook in Africa. Now is the time pause for a moment and think about what you can do for lent.

**(moment of silence)**

**Lighting of the Candles**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**: reader

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to light candles

We light the college candle as we acknowledge all in our community.

We light our Indigenous candle as we acknowledge the people who walked this land before us.

We light the Year of Grace candle to acknowledge the grace and blessings in our lives.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Opening Prayer**

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

Transforming God, you are our light and our salvation.

You hear us when we cry out.

You graciously answer us.

You invite us to seek your face.

With humble and sincere hearts we seek you.

You do not hide from us, or turn us away.

You are our help in all situations.

You are ever faithful and compassionate.

You call us to wait for you, to be strong and take courage.

In certain hope, we look to you and wait.

During these 40 days of Lent,

Spirit, speak to us.

Enable us to be transformed,

So that our lives speak of you to the world.

Help us to see more clearly, to listen deeply,

And to respond with your wisdom and compassion.

Amen.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Reader: Lk 9:28-36**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: student to hold Gospel**

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to Jesus. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as Moses and Elijah were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’ – not knowing what he said. While Peter was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel reflection (spoken or a multimedia)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Jesus and the disciples encountered the glory of God on a mountain. Lent is an opportunity to seek the face of God more deeply. The call to be requires us to stop, breathe, listen and learn. Let us watch this clip and be inspired by how Jesus spent his 40 days in prayer, fasting and reflection as He prepared for his death upon the cross.

***Multimedia- 40 Days – Matt Maher***

**Prayers of the Faithful**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Your presence brings light to the world. Teach us how to shine light as a beacon of hope. Lord hear us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Help us to find mountain tops upon which to seek your presence more fully. Lord hear us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Give courage to those who are sick. Touch them gently, so that they know you are with them always. We especially pray for Mr John Breakspear. Lord hear us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Nourish the leaders of the Church and the future new Pope, and those who are responsible for the nations of the world. Give them wisdom and courage to act with justice and compassion. Lord hear us.

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

Transforming God, draw us ever closer to you.

Encourage us to be still, to listen, to remember, to act.

Fill us, protect us, renew us, be with us as we journey onwards.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Song –**