

Dear Lord and Father

We pray now for the young people of our city,
for primary and secondary school children,
and tertiary students, both local and international.

We pray for those who work with them,
as teachers in schools and colleges,
TAFE and Universities.

Lord, what a privilege it is to come together here in the heart of this beautiful city, corporately to proclaim our love for you and intimately to share in prayer through the mystery of your Holy Spirit. Thank you that you have a Father's heart, that you gave us your Son, and that over two thousand years ago you trusted a small band of people in a country far distant from this city to carry the message of love and grace and salvation that brings us here this morning, and that is truly the hope of the world.

Lord, we bring the sons and daughters of this city before you. We pray for the little ones on their way to school, that their innocence will be respected, that in whatever school they attend they will somehow be brought stories of you – through Scripture classes, through Chapel and special services, through Church-sponsored activities and organizations, through Christian teachers, through friends, and most of all through families.

Lord, we pray for those teenagers who have left school and who are working, that there will be a Christian colleague, or a friend, or an employer, who will intrigue them by sharing those stories, and living them out. We pray particularly for those who have lost their way, and are struggling; help us corporately to work towards being a stronger city, more alert to their needs, more tender and compassionate, less likely to lead them into dangerous places.

We pray for students at TAFE and our universities. Thank you for the privilege of education, and for the exciting and exhilarating and emancipatory power of learning. Lord, we pray your protection over those students who are guests in our country, and we pray for all students that as minds expand so too will souls. Jesus said, '... learn from me for I am humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' That rest is not an inactive or passive state; it is refreshing, invigorating, renewing. We pray that renewal for our students, and indeed for our city.

Lord, you are the giver of wisdom. Give us the wisdom to be part of this learning, part of this storytelling, part of this story. Give us the wisdom to be leaderly in our inner and outer lives, to live out Christ in this city, with integrity, with authenticity, from the depths of our being, from within our innermost tabernacle.

We pray all this in Christ's precious name.

Amen.