



Sydney Prayer Breakfast 2021 **Prayer for Youth and Education** **by Dr Paul Burgis**

We are grateful God that we can be together this morning, and we remember before you our young people and the places they learn. Schools are places where we pass on wisdom and knowledge as well as places where young people think things for the first time.

We pray for all of the young people who are learning in schools and at home, in our churches and in community organisations. We ask you to give wisdom to those of us who lead these areas, to the leaders of public, independent and Catholic schools, and to those in homeschooling. We confess that we easily focus only on excellence or equity and that we forget you as the creator and sustainer of life, that we think of education in terms of performance instead of the development of persons, that we are concerned with results above people. Forgive us that we do not always seek first the kingdom of God. Forgive us for our conceit.

And yet, we are thankful for your sustenance, that your teaching that the first shall be last and the last first is still valued in our community, that we are still helping people to understand what turning the other cheek means, and that situations where young people are in trouble can still be met in a spirit of kindness and redemption.

We know that there are young people in our schools who are hurting because of broken homes, or promises left unkept, that some experience great hurt at the hands of those that are there to love them most. Some are on the verge of suicide. We know that some young people struggle to know who they are or how they fit in, or what their identity is. And social media is such a train of publicity.

Help us please to live lives that honour Jesus, and reflect your love to each person. Give us good listening ears and the capacity to see things from another viewpoint. Make us wise.

We thank you for your grace,
And pray these things in Jesus' name,
Amen.