



Official Opening & Blessing of a School Building

Updated March 2022

Changes to the Order of Ceremony

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan has requested that all Opening and Blessing ceremonies now follow the running schedule outlined below, whereby the Blessing and Opening are two separate parts of the one ceremony.

A new template has also been composed, to assist in preparations of the liturgy, and can be accessed via the Office for Worship website: https://www.ofw-adelaide.org.au/blessing_new_building.html

Assistance in preparing your liturgy is available by contacting us on 8210 8130 or worship@adelaide.catholic.org.au

All other enquiries relating to Opening Celebrations, should be directed to Carolyn Slater at Catholic Education on 8301 6612 or carolyn.slater@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Order of Proceedings for Blessing and Opening of New Buildings

Introduction

- General Welcome, Housekeeping, WHS overview
- Welcome to Country

Blessing Ceremony

- Welcome and Invitation to the Blessing
- Introductory Rites
 - Sign of the Cross
 - Opening Prayer
- Reading of the Word of God
- Homily
- Prayer of Intercession
- The Lords Prayer
- Prayer of Blessing
- Sprinkling of Building with Holy Water
- Solemn Blessing
- Closing Hymn

Opening Ceremony

- National Anthem
- Unveiling of the Plaque & Official Opening Address by Government Representative
- Response from Catholic Education Representative
- Concluding Remarks, Thanks and Farewell

Tour of Facilities & Refreshments