

## Axedale Walk of Gratitude



### Introduction

We are about to go on a short walk around our town to give thanks for our common life. This is our local 'nano-Camino'.

Our walking intentionally in this way is our prayer together, and we will add to our walking prayer by stopping from time to time to offer particular prayer for the CFA, the School and so on.

We live and move and have our being in the grace God, and the flow of God's life-giving Spirit is being poured out for us in each moment, eternally. A tangible sign of that for us is the Campaspe River, flowing through our town.

That suggests a song we might sing at the end of each spoken prayer.  
It could be that we sing of our courage and determination

***We shall not give up the fight, we have only started....***

Or of our lament and our longing

***Water, carry me, to where there is no sadness,  
to where there is only gladness and freedom from pain. (2x)***

### **CFA**

We give thanks for the CFA and the SES and for those who volunteer to keep our community safe in the face of fire and extreme weather events. We pray for those who attend road accidents and who know how to respond, calmly, carefully, and professionally. We pray for those who offer support and healing for those who are traumatised.

### **The School**

We give thanks for the school as a learning community, and for the sounds of children at play. We pray for Corrinna and all the teachers, for rest and refreshment at holiday times. We pray for each household with a child at the School.

### **St Mary's**

We pray for St Mary's on the hill and for the witness of the Axedale Catholic community to the way of Christ. We give thanks for each mass that is offered, and ask a blessing on each household that is drawn into a network of care and compassion.

### **The Axedale Pub**

We give thanks that here in our town there is a great old place where we can gather as friends and neighbours to eat and drink and talk and listen to music. We pray for Dutchy and all the hard-working staff. And we pray that all who pass through the doors of the Pub eat and drink and celebrate life gladly and responsibly.

### **The Shop and Post Office**

We give thanks for the shop and post office, that provides for us news and letters and parcels and take-aways, and milk and other necessities. Bless Kim and Tom and all the hard-working staff.

### **Rise and Grind**

We celebrate that there is a place in our town for hot coffee for those on their way to work early in the morning, and a resting place in the sun for passing cyclists and others looking for refreshment and a place to meet and yarn.

### **The Hall and Kinder**

We give thanks for the hall as a meeting place, and for the kinder as a place to nurture the early years of the life of each child and each new family. We give thanks for the food stall, and the book-cupboard, and for Foodshare and all the other activities that have a place here. We give thanks for the playground and for a green space where we can gather as a community in the centre of our town.

### **The Police Station**

We give thanks that we live in a community that by and large is well-ordered and peaceful. We pray for those who staff the police station that they may do so without fear or favour, and that the law may be administered in a way that builds up our common life.

### **St Andrews Axedale**

We pray for the witness of the Axedale Uniting Church to the way of Christ. We pray for the flourishing of the Community Garden. We pray that we might have our hearts and our imaginations enlarged by the Gospel, facing the future with hope and courage.

### **Blessing**

*Chalice prayer - standing in a Circle*

We bow to release  
We rise to wait  
We open to receive  
We step forward to give