Virtue of Peace
Liturgy of the Word
“Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you.” John 14:27

Preparation: Create a prayerful atmosphere. Prepare a table at the front of your space. Tablecloth should be green for Ordinary Time. Include a cross, fresh flowers or green plant, pillar candle, Bible or Book of the Gospels, symbols of Peace: doves etc.

Opening Prayer:
+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
God of Peace,
Help us to live in harmony with our neighbours.
Teach us to trust in your guidance.
Lead us to your peace.
We ask this through your Jesus, your Son.
Amen*

Holy Scripture:

John 14:25-27
"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Reflections on Peace:

Peace is a gift that Jesus gives us. When he appeared to his friends the disciples he would say, “Peace be with you.”
This is a greeting that puts everyone at ease.
During Mass, we offer each other the sign of peace.
This means that we wish those around us will share in the peace of Christ.
At the end of every Mass, the priest or deacon directs to go “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”
We are called to live in peace with and to love our neighbours.
Too often in our world today, people try to solve their problems with fighting.
We must remember that we are all members of the family of God, and that God wants us, his children, to live peace and harmony.*

Our Father: Invite the school community to pray together the words that Jesus taught us.

Sign of Peace: As witnesses of our faith and hospitality turn to one another and offer the sign of peace to those around you.
Closing Prayer:
Peace Prayer of St. Francis Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light, Where there is sadness, joy.
O, Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled as to console; To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen

*Adapted from Words for the Journey for Kids
Lisa Freemantle & Les Miller