



**SACRED HEART COLLEGE**  
**YEAR 9 RITE JOURNEY**  
**GIRLS CALLING CEREMONY**  
**2020**



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# YEAR 9 RITE JOURNEY GIRLS CALLING CEREMONY 2020

The Calling Ceremony marks the first of 7 important stages in the Rite Journey program, providing students with a chance to reflect and be grateful for their childhood. Your daughter will also commit to beginning their journey to womanhood by naming a childish habit which they will leave behind.

For parents, the ceremony provides an opportunity for an incredibly special moment. Parents/carers are asked to respond to their daughter's letter of gratitude with a message of support, naming the characteristics you see in them which will hold them in good stead on their journey to adulthood.

This booklet contains a script to be used to conduct your own Calling Ceremony. You may need to amend some elements to make it specific to your family circumstance, but we have tried to make the language as universal as possible.

We advise that you start by watching the Year 9 Rite Journey Calling Ceremony Video via [www.shc.sa.edu.au/learning/champagnat-campus-years-7-9/the-rite-journey](http://www.shc.sa.edu.au/learning/champagnat-campus-years-7-9/the-rite-journey), to gain an insight into what the ceremony looks like. Then, read through the script to ensure it relates to your family context and the environment in which you are holding your ceremony. You will also need to insert your daughter's name where indicated. The ceremony should take around 30 minutes.

If you have any questions in preparing for this special moment, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Rite Journey teacher.

We wish you all the best and hope you enjoy this important moment in your daughter's journey to womanhood.

## THE RITE JOURNEY CALLING CEREMONY SCRIPT

SPEAKER	SCRIPT
<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p><i>Thank your child and any family for their attendance and participation in this celebration.</i></p> <p><i>Invite your child forward to begin the ceremony in prayer.</i></p>
<p><b>Child</b></p>	<p>In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit            Lord Jesus, you remind us that whenever we gather in your name, you are in our midst.            Unite and strengthen me in this important journey.</p> <p>Help me to listen – to my teachers, to parents and caregivers, to my peers, and to the            whispers of your Spirit in my heart.</p> <p>Be with me and my family through the ups and downs of the coming years, facing the            challenges presented, and help us to welcome these as opportunities to be grasped,            knowing we are growing in your love.</p> <p>Teach me to value every member of our community, particularly my Rite Journey            classmates and to build relationships based on genuine respect.</p> <p>We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen</p>
<p><b>Child</b></p>	<p>Before we begin this evening’s ceremony, I would also like to acknowledge the traditional            owners of the land on which we are gathered, the Kaurna people.</p> <p>We honour the traditional elders of the past, present and future; and recognise that            for thousands of years, they have called and nurtured their young boys and girls into            adulthood.</p> <p>Today, it is my turn. This evening, I am called to this journey.</p>
<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p>I will now read a brief reflection to acknowledge your journey to adulthood.</p> <p>I gave you life, but I cannot live it for you.</p> <p>I can give you directions, but I cannot always be there to lead you.</p> <p>I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot always decide for you.</p> <p>I can offer you advice, but I cannot accept it for you.</p> <p>I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you.</p> <p>I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.</p> <p>I can teach you respect, but I cannot force you to show honor.</p> <p>I can advise you about friends, but cannot choose them for you.</p> <p>I can tell you about alcohol &amp; drugs, but I can't say "No" for you.</p> <p>I can tell you about setting lofty goals, but I can't achieve them for you.</p>

<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p>I can teach you about kindness, but I can't force you to be gracious.</p> <p>I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God.</p> <p>I can take you to Church, but I cannot make you believe</p> <p>I can tell you how to live, but I cannot live your life for you</p> <p>I can love you unconditionally, all of my life... and I will.</p>
<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p>What can you take from that reflection?</p> <p>We will be there for you no matter what, to support you, guide you, nurture you, care for you, love you unconditionally. But ultimately, it is you who needs to decide what type of adult you want to be. Will you be caring? Will you be generous? Will you be a good friend? Will you look out for those on the margins? Will you be humble?</p> <p>I ask you this - Like Mary, will you demonstrate humility, inner strength and a quiet confidence?</p> <p>Will you have the courage to love yourself, your strengths and your imperfections?</p> <p>Will you build up and empower other women and support one another, always?</p> <p>As we embark on this journey together in 2020, these are questions you will have the opportunity to explore and to answer.</p>
<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p><b><i>Stand behind your child with a hand on their shoulder as a sign of support.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p>Before we begin the ceremony, let's take a moment together to pause, let go of anything that happened today or that is happening later tonight, and appreciate the beauty of our surroundings and of each other's presence.</p> <p>Being a woman is a big thing – as vast as the oceans, in opportunities and challenges. The ocean is not to be taken lightly or carelessly. Before we take on the ocean, we need to learn its ways; to listen to others who have more experience; to train our bodies and our minds. But when you do, when you've learnt to respect the ocean, to understand it, the ocean can bring you great joy, peace, calm. And the more you swim, or paddle, or row, the more you learn about it's ways.</p> <p>Adulthood is the same: you need to ready yourself for it; and it, also, is a journey on which you will continue to learn.</p> <p>Look around you at this beautiful beach, listen to the ocean. Around 14 years ago you were born. We were amazed at the tiny miracle we held in our hands, we loved you before you had even taken your first breath. You were a baby, then a toddler, you learnt to walk, talk, play and swim, perhaps on this very beach or not far from here. You grew, and played with friends, with brothers, sisters, cousins. Whatever you needed was provided. You had a place to live, warm clothes, a bed. You were cared for. You went on holidays, started kindergarten and school, made new friends, laughed, cried, grew stronger, more creative, more resilient.</p>

<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p>Now think of all the people who helped you, cared for you, fed you and clothed you, healed you when you were sick. Think of the homes that gave you shelter and the family that loved you, that loves you still.</p> <p>The sun is about to set on the water in front of us. As it does, let it symbolise the fact that the sun is also setting on your childhood. Soon you will be a woman. The journey to being a woman is more than just Year 9, it's a long road, but you begin the road today.</p> <p>Look at the beauty of the light of the setting sun on the water.</p> <p>Let the light assure you, adulthood need not frighten you; for you are not embarking on this journey alone. You are precious to your parents and loved ones; and you are important to us – we will accompany you on your journey.</p> <p>But first, we say goodbye. Goodbye to being a child. And goodbye begins by saying thank you. Can I ask that you turn to us (your parents/caregivers) and read the letter of gratitude which you have prepared.</p>
<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p><b><i>This is also your opportunity as parents/caregivers to share a message of support to your daughter, and affirm the qualities and characteristics you see in her that will hold her in good stead as she grows.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p>I ask you to make your way (with me) to the water, hold your stone in your hand and release this into the ocean as a commitment to moving on from this childish behaviour, taking one small step towards adulthood.</p>
<p><b>Child</b></p>	<p><b><i>Walk to the water.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Child throws stone into ocean or pond.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p>You have just thanked us, your parents for everything we have done to care for you until this point.</p> <p>Now, in your mind, send a thank you for anyone else who has loved you, and cared for you, in small ways and large, the places, the experiences, the films, books, games, music, all that has made your childhood rich and good. Even the painful times – the hurts, the betrayals, the disappointments, that have, in some way, shaped who you are.</p> <p>Be grateful for your childhood. Breathe deeply, and carry with you all these gifts into the next, new stage of life.</p> <p>Welcome to the journey of adulthood.</p>
<p><b>Parent/ Caregiver</b></p>	<p><b><i>You are now invited to remain with your daughter for as long as you wish to watch the sun set in front of you.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Thank you for being a part of this afternoon's Calling Ceremony, an important step in your daughter's journey to becoming a woman.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Please enjoy this special time together.</i></b></p>





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