Bangladesh is a very beautiful country. I hope you and your families get out of Dhaka and explore it as much as possible. There are also other beautiful countries in the world. We are all learning how the things that we buy can affect other parts of the world. Maybe you have seen those advertisements on television that say, "When the buying stops, the killing can stop too!" Some people are still killing tigers for their body parts to be used in medicines. Other animals that are getting fewer in numbers could also be helped if people stopped paying high prices for their body parts or for their babies as pets. All the peoples of the world are slowly learning how to care for our beautiful world better and the creatures in it. In this way, we can give honour to our Almighty God who is its Creator because he loves everything that he has made and wants us to love it too.

God bless you.

SCHOOL PRAYER 2. POURING

Assembly 33 Monday March 3rd 2003

(Take a big jug, a little jug and a glass – and use as visual aids – the more exaggerated, the better!)

We are thinking this week about our school prayer and yesterday we looked at 'O Almighty God' and we thought of our Creator and his wonderful world.

And what do we ask Almighty God to do, do your remember? What is the first thing we ask him to do? POUR DOWN THY BLESSINGS UPON ALL WHO ARE NOW HERE.

The world and you and I are wonderfully and strangely made and many of us do our best – but, day by day, we need God's blessings upon what we do or what we do is not much good. We need to tell him that we will do our little bit to make this day a good day – but we should ask him, "Please will you do your Big Bit?"

Do you remember the verb that is used with the word 'blessing'? What do we ask God to do with his blessings? POUR them down. P – O – U – R. POUR is a lovely word. We stand under the shower and the water *pours* down upon us. The rain pours down on the thirsty land. God is very generous with his blessings – he does not give his blessings to us drip by drip, saying, "Isn't that enough? Do you really want any more?" He *pours* them down.

So we think of God with a great jug of blessings – *pick it up and hold it high* - and we ask him to pour his blessing into us like we pour water from a jug into a glass *(pick up glass and be about to pour water from jug into glass – stop).* NO – wait a moment, that is not right. We are not like glasses – we are like little jugs...*(pick up little jug and pour water from big jug into it, during the following...).* He likes us to say, "Please fill up my little jug of blessings from your big jug of blessings – and then I will go and pour out your blessings on those I meet today – and then you will need to fill me up again tomorrow!"

God does not give us his blessings for us to keep to ourselves. He gives us health and strength and intelligence and opportunities and friends and colleagues and jobs and he does not give us these blessings like a bag of sweets so that we can go into a corner and eat them all ourselves, determined not to share them with anyone else! No, he says, 'I love you but I love my whole world. I want you to let my blessings pour *through* you into the whole world. I give you my blessings so that you can give them away to others – and, when you give them away, you will find that I will always keep your own jug full."

God bless you.