



Mass for Commencement of New School Year Autumn 2023

(Primary School)

Mass Text, Scripture Readings, Prayers of the Faithful

Mass for Opening of New School Year

(Primary School)

OPENING HYMN

PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord God, at the beginning you created people to be like you. Lord, have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy

Lord God, all people have sinned and turned away from you. Christ, have mercy.

Response: Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, you continually offer us new beginnings. Lord, have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Or

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters, .
to pray for me to the Lord our God. **Amen**

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
as a new school year begins, we ask your help.
May we always be aware of the needs of
others in school and in our parish.

Help us to listen and learn in our classes;
do our very best in our homework;
play our full part in school and come to know and love you
more and more each day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

(Acts 7:20-22)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Moses was cared for at home for three months, and when he was put out of his home, the king's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. He was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians and became a great man in words and deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps. 37)

(Those coordinating preparations for Mass may decide to sing an alternative psalm.)

Response: Lord teach me your ways

The Lord guides us in the way we should go,
and protects those who please him. **℟**

If we fall we will not stay down
because the Lord will help us up. **℟**

Good people's words are wise
and are always fair.
They keep the law of God in their heart
and never depart from it. **℟**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

(Eph. 3:14-20)

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth gets its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Glory be to Him whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask, or indeed imagine. Glory be to Him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(The Gospel acclamation may be sung)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I want you to be happy; what I want is your happiness.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

(Lk. 2:41-52)

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was

amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been searching for you.”

“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant:

We bring our prayers to God, our Father as we begin a new school year.

We pray for all who are new in our school, pupils and staff; may they be happy here, find good friends, and enjoy the gift of learning. Lord, hear us.

We pray that we will come to know Jesus better and follow the example of love that he shared. Give us the strength and faith to make his love known here on earth. Lord, hear us.

As we begin this school year, we pray that we will always listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, which is a powerful guide in all the decisions we make. Lord, hear us.

We pray for all past pupils, especially for those who left last year; that they may get on well in their new school. Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who care for our school and its environs. May we help them in caring for our school, making it a place of welcome. Lord, hear us.

We pray for all those children in our world today who, because of poverty, cannot attend school. May we never take for granted the gift of an education. Lord, hear us.

For our teachers: may share their knowledge in a spirit of gentleness and patience. Lord, hear us.

Lord, help us to spread happiness at home, by our pleasant words and happy faces, and by helping whenever we can. Lord, hear us.

Lord, help us to spread happiness at school by doing our work well and by being kind and gentle with our friends. Lord hear us.

Lord, help us to spread happiness in the playground by ensuring no one is left out. Lord, hear us.

Heavenly Father, your amazing love calls us to be true friends to each other. Through this school year, let us walk with you, let us talk with you, let us pray with you, and let us be guided by you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God, with our simple gifts of bread and wine we offer you ourselves. As we prepare to meet Jesus in the breaking of the bread, may this Holy Eucharist bring us closer to you and to one another. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR CHILDREN 1

Priest: The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right and just.

God our Father, you have brought us here together so that we can give you thanks and praise for all the wonderful things you have done.

We thank you for all that is beautiful in the world and for the happiness you have given us. We praise you for daylight and for your word which lights up our minds. We praise you for the earth, and all the people who live on it, and for our life which comes from you.

We know that you are good. You love us and do great things for us.

Father, you are always thinking about your people; you never forget us. You sent your Son Jesus, who gave his life for us and who came to save us. He cured sick people; he cared for those who were poor and wept with those who were sad. He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive each other. He love everyone and showed us how to be kind. He took children in his arms and blessed them.

God our Father, all over the world your people praise you. So now we pray with the whole Church: with Frances, our pope and Tom, our bishop. In heaven the blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles and all the saints always sing your praise. Now we join with them and with the angels to adore you as we sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

God our Father, you are most holy and we want to show you that we are grateful.

We bring you bread and wine and ask you to send your Holy Spirit to make these gifts the body and blood of Jesus your Son. Then we can offer to you what you have given to us.

On the night before he died, Jesus was having supper with his apostles. He took bread from the table. He gave you thanks and praise. Then he broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT:
FOR THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

When supper was ended, Jesus took the cup that was filled with wine. He thanked you, gave it to his friends, and said:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT:
THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW
AND ETERNAL COVENANT WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR
YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
THEN HE SAID TO THEM: DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

We do now what Jesus told us to do. We remember his death and resurrection and we offer you, Father, the bread that gives us life, and the cup that saves us. Jesus brings us to you; welcome us as you welcome him.

The mystery of faith:

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Father, because you love us, you invite us to come to your table. Fill us with the joy of the Holy Spirit as we receive the body and blood of your Son.

Lord, you never forget any of your children. We ask you to take care of those we love, especially of N. and N., and we pray for those who have died.

Remember everyone who is suffering from pain or sorrow. Remember Christians everywhere and all other people in the world.

We are filled with wonder and praise when we see what you do for us through Jesus your Son, and so we sing:

Through him and with him, and in him, O God almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God, you have fed us through your word and sacrament. In this our new school year, help us to journey in faith, to recognise Jesus in one another and to serve each other as he has shown us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

(Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.)

Priest: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Amen

Priest: May his face shine on you, and be gracious to you.

Amen

Priest: May he look upon you with kindness and give you his peace.

Amen

Priest: May almighty God bless you, the Father, ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Mass is ended; go in peace glorifying the Lord by your lives.

Thanks be to God.

Adapted from:

www.elphindiocese.ie

www.dioceseofkerry.ie