

# Assembly Service at Beginning of New School Year

## LIGHT A CANDLE

*(As the candle is being lit, read this passage aloud):*

‘People of goodness do not need to bestow blessing; instead they become a blessing. Their presence is goodness and they engender new life, strength, courage and vitality by their presence. That was exactly how Jesus blessed the people around him’.

*Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy*



## OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, at the beginning of this new school year we ask you to bless us, the students, our teachers and staff of this school, that together we may grow in faith, hope and love as we learn from you and each other how to follow your Son, Jesus.

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Mark 12:28-31*

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

We take a moment to think about someone or something that might be making us anxious about the year ahead.....**Pause**

We take a chance to think about someone or something that is helping to make this new school year an enjoyable experience.....**Pause**

We take time to reflect on what can we do to make this school year a positive experience for ourselves and others.....**Pause**

*(You could invite the students to write one hope for the year on a piece of paper which they could place in the centre or in a basket with gentle music in the background.)*

## **REFLECTION**

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!’ So I went forth and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

## **INTERCESSIONS**

1. Lord, guide us on our way and protect us as we journey together through this school year.

**Response: Let us know that you are with us every step of the way.**

2. Lord, keep our families and friends in your loving embrace and help us to love one another.

**Response: Let us know that you are with us every step of the way.**

3. Lord, as we face challenges during the year, guide us with your light.

**Response: Let us know that you are with us every step of the way.**

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Loving God, we entrust ourselves to you. Daily guide our minds and hearts so that we will work for the good of our school community and be a help to all people. Teach us to be generous in our outlook, courageous in face of difficulty, and wise in our decisions.

We ask this, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**