

**Primary School  
End of School Year Mass  
(6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation)**



## **Preparation for Mass**

Schools are encouraged to display a collection of pictures/photographs/writing/artwork by the children recognising school activities which have taken place over the last year.

For 6th Class, a special section containing their special memories as they move to Secondary School: photographs of a play, tour, fund day, Confirmation, Holy Communion, sports, previous classes etc.

In preparing the liturgical space a tableau (display) of artwork or symbols could reflect aspects of student life in the school. These symbols should be brought to the altar in procession at the beginning of the Mass, ideally before the opening hymn. This is an ideal way of creating a prayerful space for the celebration of Eucharist.

### **Suggested Procession of Symbols:**

#### **Narrator (Child 1 carries a candle)**

Our candle represents Jesus, the light of the world. It reminds us that Jesus is always present in our world. As prepare to leave Primary School we are reminded that we are asked to be the light of Christ for others wherever we are.

#### **Narrator (Child 2 carries a Bible)**

The Bible is the Word of God. When we listen to the Word of God and respond to its message each day, we learn to live as followers of Christ.

#### **Narrator (Child 3 carries the School crest)**

We are grateful for the many gifts and blessings we have received through being part of this school community.

#### **Narrator (Child 4 carries a globe)**

This is a reminder that as members of the Body of Christ, we are part of a much wider community. Led by the Holy Spirit we should always be aware of the needs of others and be prepared to use our gifts and talents to help and support them.

## **Narrator**

God, our Father, we know you are always with us. We know that each of us here in this school is connected to your love. May we continue to be guided by the light of Christ in everything we do.

## **Opening Hymn:**

### **Penitential Rite**

Priest: Lord Jesus, you came to show us how to live and how to love.  
Lord, have mercy. **Response: Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: Lord Jesus, you forgive us for the times we have not loved and lived as God would want us to.

Christ, have mercy. **Response: Christ, have mercy.**

Priest: Lord Jesus you came to show us how to love.

Lord, have mercy. **Response: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Opening Prayer**

God our Father, our life is blessed with many good gifts.  
Make us truly thankful for the gifts of our own personalities,  
for the gift of people who guide us and help us to grow,  
especially the teachers in our school.  
May we be your presence in the world  
in how we relate to others, and in all that we say and do.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **Liturgy of the Word**

A reading from the first letter of John

My dear friends, we must love each other.  
Love comes from God,  
And when we love each other,  
It shows that we have been given new life.  
We are now God's children, and we know him.  
God has shown his love for us  
When he sent his only Son into the world to give us life.  
Real love is not our love for God, but his love for us.  
God sent his Son to be the sacrifice  
by which our sins are forgiven.  
Dear friends,  
Since God loved us this much,  
We must love each other.  
God is love.  
If we keep on loving others,  
We will stay one in our hearts with God,  
And he will stay one with us.  
The word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Do Not Be Afraid

## **Gospel Acclamation**

John 1:4:16

Alleluia, Alleluia!

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

(John 15:12-17)

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Or

(Luke 24: 28-31)

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

Or

(Matthew 6:25-34)

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

#### **Priest:**

Let us pray, that we may be truly grateful for the gift of God in our lives and for our friendships. We look now to the future and pray for everyone here, and for our intentions.

#### **Reader 1:**

God our Father, bless all the children of this school community. We give thanks for the joy they bring. May they continue to grow in understanding of your love for them.

Lord, hear us.

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

#### **Reader 2:**

God our Father, thank you for all the teachers who work to make our school a safe, happy and caring place; in which to learn. We give thanks in this Mass for their guidance and support.

Lord, hear us.

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader 3:**

God our Father, you give us our parents to love and care for us.  
Through them, we come to know how much you love and care for us.  
Bless them always and keep them close in your love.  
Lord, hear us.

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader 4:**

God our Father, we ask you to bless, Fr ....., our Chaplain. We  
give thanks for the many ways in which he helped all of us to come to  
know you. Bless him and his priestly ministry in our parish.  
Lord, hear us.

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader 5:**

God, our Father, we ask you to bless us, the 6th class students, as we  
leave our school. May we always value the gifts of friendship, care and  
compassion. May we always be sensitive to the needs of others.  
Lord, hear us.

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Reader 6:**

For friendship between nations, for peace and justice in our own  
country, and that developed countries may not abuse the poverty of  
other nations.  
Lord, hear us.

**Response: Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Offertory Procession**

*(Only the bread and wine should be brought in procession to the altar.)*

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Lord God, friend of your people,  
friend of the world, friend of the earth:  
be with us as we journey together in life to you.  
May this bread and wine  
always remind us of your friendship  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

### **Communion Rite**

### **Communion Hymns**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Lord God, in Jesus you give us your own friendship.  
We thank you for this gift.  
Help us to cherish it and nourish it,  
and never demean it for anyone.  
Make us true friends  
in the name and the spirit of Jesus our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF 6TH CLASS CHILDREN PREPARING TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL**

### **Priest:**

Lord, bless each of these children who stand before you today ready to begin the next stage of their life-journey.

We give thanks for the years they have spent in the school and for the many gifts they shared with us. As they go forth from here may they continue to live lives that speak of God's love for them and for all people.

*(The response to each prayer is Amen)*

Priest: May God bless you as you leave behind the days of your Primary School.

**Children: Amen**

Priest: May God bless you as you move to a new school in September.

**Children: Amen**

Priest: May God bless all those who have been part of your lives so far.

**Children: Amen**

### **Final Blessing**

Priest: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you.**

Priest: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

**All: Amen**

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

**All: Amen**

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

**All: Amen**

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

**All: Amen**

Priest:

The Mass is ended. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Final Hymn:**