St. Patrick – Prayer Service

Needed:
A green cloth
Candle, taper and matches
Bible
A cut out shamrock for each person
Pens / pencils
A small basket for the shamrocks

{Distribute cut outs of shamrock prior to the Prayer Service. Invite the senior pupils to write the names of people of faith who have influenced them on the shamrock. Invite the junior pupils to colour the shamrock}

Sacred Space
Place the cloth in the centre. On it place the candle, a bible and a basket for the shamrocks.

Hymn:

Opening Prayer
Lord Jesus Christ, we gather together to hear your Word to us, as we celebrate the feast of St. Patrick. Help us to live what we hear proclaimed. As we celebrate the example of St. Patrick, may we remember that we too are called to follow Jesus. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: (Philippians 1:3-6)
A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians
I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy - because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of spreading the gospel. And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished, till the day you meet God face to face.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm: if desired.

Gospel: Matthew (28: 18-20)
Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of time.”

The gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ
**Reflection:**
St. Patrick came to Ireland to tell the Irish people the good news about Jesus Christ. He used a small three-leafed plant, called the shamrock to explain the Trinity. He said: just as the shamrock has three leaves so one God is three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He went all over Ireland preaching, baptising people, and building churches. We too are called to share the good news of God’s love and to pray.

**Shamrocks**
*Each student is invited to come forward bringing their shamrock to the basket provided.*

**Litany:**
We now ask St. Patrick to pray for us to the Lord our God.

- St. Patrick, missionary to the people of Ireland... **All:** Pray for us.
- St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland... **All:** Pray for us.
- St. Patrick, person of courage... **All:** Pray for us.
- St. Patrick, builder of churches... **All:** Pray for us.
- St. Patrick, witness to the gospel... **All:** Pray for us.
- St. Patrick, man of prayer… **All:** Pray for us.
- St. Patrick, person of faith… **All:** Pray for us.

Lord, hear the prayers of St. Patrick, and the prayers that we offer to you today. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Closing prayer:**
We go now to live as God’s followers as did St. Patrick.
We ask God’s blessing on us and on all that we do
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
**All:** Amen

**Closing hymn:**