

## MASS FOR THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

### OPENING HYMN

Gather Round: **Alive O5**, Teacher's Book, page 55

### 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.

### OPENING PRAYER

O God, of new beginnings, we know that this is a year full of promise and possibility. Enfold us in your love and fill us with your truth. May your presence with us guide us in our friendships and learning. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

### FIRST READING (Acts 7:20-22)

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 37

**Response:** Lord teach me your ways

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

**Response:**

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

**Response:**

Good people's words are wise  
and are always fair.

They keep the law of God in their heart  
and never depart from it.

## **Response:**

### **GOSPEL (Mt 13:54-55)**

Jesus taught in the synagogue, and those who heard him were amazed. "Where did he get such wisdom?" they asked. "And what about his miracles? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother?"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Response:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Priest:** Gracious and loving God, hear us as we pray:

**Response:** Lord, let your face shine on us.

**1** That our work and play will be blessed this year.

**Response:**

**2** That our school community will reflect Gospel values.

**Response:**

**3** That all new pupils and staff will feel welcome and respected.

**Response:**

**4** That we will be guided by the Holy Spirit in our learning.

**Response:**

**5** That through the intercession of Mary we may be faithful followers of Jesus.

**Response:**

**Priest:** Loving God listen to our prayers and let your face shine on us through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Father, accept these gifts as we begin a new school year. Help us to recognise Christ in this Eucharist and welcome him with love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Children's Mass 111 – Outside Easter

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

Do This in Memory: **Alive O 4**, Teacher's book, page 393

Eat This Bread: **Alive O 4**, Teacher's Book, page 383

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Father, in this Eucharist you touch our lives.  
Keep your love alive in our hearts as we begin this school year.  
We ask this in the name of your Son our Lord.  
Amen

### **FINAL BLESSING**

May the Lord bless our year together with happiness and peace. Amen  
May you discover new gifts in yourselves, and celebrate the giftedness of others. Amen  
May the love of God shine through you at home, in school and with friends. Amen

### **FINAL HYMN**

Christ is my Light: **Alive O 5**, page 23

Or

The Spirit of God is Upon Us: **Alive O 5**, page 33

### **REFLECTION**

One tree can start a forest,  
One sunbeam lights a room,  
One bird can herald spring,  
One smile begins a friendship,  
One handclasp lifts a soul,  
One star can guide a ship at sea,  
One candle wipes out darkness,  
One vote can change a nation,  
One laugh will lift sadness,  
One step must start each journey,  
One word must start each prayer,  
One hope will raise our spirits,  
One touch can show care,  
One voice can speak with wisdom,  
One heart can know what's true,  
One life can make the difference,  
You see it's up to you!  
Don't forget how very important  
YOU ARE.

(Author Unknown)

### **SUITABLE FOR BLESSING OF SCHOOL EXTENSION**

**See:** Prayer Service in **Alive O 7**, pages 3 & 4.