MASS FOR RETIREMENT

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Today, we gather as a school community to acknowledge all that.........................has contributed to education in this school over the last .............years. With a sense of gratitude in our hearts we thank the Lord for her/his many gifts - especially................
We give thanks to God for ......................... .......and we ask God’s future blessing on him/her.

HYMN: Gather Round, Alive O 5, page 55

PENITENTIAL RITE
Lord Jesus, you reward those who do good to others.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you draw us into renewal of life.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are a light for our path.
Lord, have mercy.

OPENING PRAYER
Gentle God, we give thanks for the faithful service to the school of .........................
May we continue to be filled with the gift of your Spirit and support and encourage each other as we work for your glory. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:
A reading from the letter of St. Paul to Timothy  (2 Timothy 4: 5-8)
You must perform your whole duty as a servant of God. As for me, the hour has come; the time is here for me to leave this life. I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with God, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day – and not only me, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear.
The Word of the Lord.

PSALM

ALLELUIA
GOSPEL  (John 17: 1, 3-5)
Jesus looked up to heaven and said “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son, so that the Son may give glory to you. Eternal life means knowing Jesus Christ whom you sent. I have shown your glory on earth; I have finished the work you gave me to do. Father! Give me the glory in your presence now, the same glory I had with you before the world was made.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL
Priest:
Source of all blessings we turn to you and pray:

Response: Generous God, bless us.
For the needs of our Church and our world today.
Response: Generous God, bless us.
For those who contribute to the education of children.
Response: Generous God, bless us.
For ...........................who retires from this school that s/he will be rewarded for his/her dedicated service.
Response: Generous God, bless us.
For your continued inspiration and blessing on this school community.
Response: Generous God, bless us.
That through the prayers of ..........................the patron/patroness of this school, we may proclaim the Good News always.
Response: Generous God, bless us.

Priest:
Loving God, hear our prayers and continue to help us in our needs, through Christ our Lord.
Amen

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS
Lord, look with love on our service. Accept the gifts we bring and help us grow in Christian love. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

COMMUNION HYMN: Do This in Memory, Alive O 4, page 393

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Lord, you have nourished us with the bread of life. Help us to continue to serve and thank you by lives of faithful service. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.
FINAL BLESSING

Invoke the retiring person or persons to stand.

1 Invite the CHILDREN to stretch out their hands in blessing, palms turned down, while the choir sing...
   “The Spirit of God is upon us,” Alive O 5, page 33

2 A TEACHER reads the Reflection/Blessing: John O’Donohue

REFLECTION

This is where your life has arrived,
After all the years of effort and toil;
Look back with graciousness and thanks
on all your great and quiet achievements.

You stand on the shore of new invitation
To open your life to what is left undone;
Let your heart enjoy a different rhythm
When drawn to the wonder of other horizons.

Have the courage for a new approach to time;
Allow it to slow until you find freedom
To draw alongside the mystery you hold
And befriend your own beauty of soul.

Now is the time to enjoy your heart’s desire,
To live the dreams you’ve waited for,
To awaken the depths beyond your work
And enter into your infinite source.

John O’Donohue

3 PRIEST gives the Final Blessing.

FINAL HYMN

PLANT A MEMORY TREE

Some children, teachers and parents could be invited to plant a tree in memory of the teacher.