

## End of School Year Mass

### Preparation for Mass

*Display a collection of pictures/photographs/writing/artwork by the children showing school activities which have taken place over the last year.*

### For 6th Class

*Have 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.*

**Opening Hymn:** This is the Day (*Alive-0 7 CD2 Track 22*)

### Introduction:

*(By the Principal or Class Teacher)*

Our school year is coming to conclusion and so today we gather together as a school community to celebrate and give thanks for all the blessings we have received. For our 6<sup>th</sup> class children it is also the end of their time at Primary School. It is a time for them both to remember and to look forward to new schools, new friends and new beginnings. I now invite our children to come forward to present their symbols.

### 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.

## **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 (*Alive-O 7 CD2 Track 14*)

**Alleluia**      (*From Alive-O 7, page 270*)

**Gospel:** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."  
(*John 15:12-17*)

**or**

**Gospel:** The disciples on the road to Emmaus.    (*Luke 24: 28-31*)

### **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...

**Adult:** (*Teacher*)

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.

**Child 1:**

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.

**Child 2:**

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.

**Child 3**

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

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

**Adult:** *(Member of the Board of Management / Teacher)*

God, our Father, we ask you to bless us, the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Child 4:**

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**

*The children play suitable instrumental music for the 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

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**(Sanctus-Alive-O 7, Page 271)**

**Amen (Alive-O 7, Page 272)**

**Communion Rite**

### **Communion Hymns**

Happy in the presence of the Lord ... *Alive-O 7CD2 Track 24)*

My Shepherd is the Lord ... *(CD1 Track 28)*

### **Communion Reflection**

When you say 'THANKS,' you grow a little;  
thanks is like food for the heart and soul.

We're thankful for a compliment,  
for help with study,  
for encouragement,  
for advice with a problem,  
for good friendships,  
for fun and laughter.

When we're grateful,  
we know we depend on others -  
for most of the good things in life,  
and we can't go it alone.

Think for a moment of something you are grateful for;  
or someone you feel gratitude towards;  
allow yourself feel the thanks in your heart... ...*PAUSE*

And think of your THANKS to God...  
Maybe you are grateful for your health,  
your family, your friends, your faith,  
your gifts and talents...and above all yourself.

Be grateful this moment  
for who you are,  
for the friendships in life,  
and for the faith you have in God.

### **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 THE 6<sup>TH</sup> CLASS CHILDREN LEAVING THE SCHOOL**

### **Priest/Teacher:**

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:** Christ be our Light *(Alive-O 7 CD2 Track 25)*

