**Enrolment Ceremony**

**October 2023**

**Called and Chosen**

**at Sunday Mass**

***Gathering Rite***

**Reader**Welcome everyone. Today marks the beginning of a very special journey for the children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion next May. As a parish community we extend a very warm welcome to these children and their families.

As you know, each one of us are called and chosen by God. We are called and chosen to enter into deep friendship with him, where we are loved unconditionally as we journey through our lives, trying our best each day to follow in the footsteps of Jesus – loving, caring and respecting all people even when this is challenging. Each of our faith journey and relationship with God began at our baptism, where we were welcomed into our faith community by our parish community, priest, parents, family and friends – who have committed to helping us reach our full potential and to nurture the gifts each one of us has from the Holy Spirit. With this in mind, we recall our baptismal vows now as we light the Paschal candle.

***Paschal candle is lit***

***Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling of Water***

*Altar server holds bowl of water in front of priest.*

**Priest:** Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us know ask our heavenly Father to bless this water.

Water is an invaluable gift for all of creation,

without it there would be no life

Let us never take this precious gift for granted.

Let our hearts grow in deep respect and appreciation for the gift of water.

Each time we bless ourselves with Holy water, we remember our baptism.

*Brief pause of silence…*

Almighty ever living God, who willed that, through water,

the fountain of life and the source of purification,

every soul should be cleansed and receive the gift of eternal life;

be pleased, we pray to + bless this water,

by which we seek protection on this your day, O Lord.

Renew the living springs of your grace within us

and grant that, by this water, we may be defended

from all ills of spirit and body,

and so, approach you with hearts made clean and worthy,

to receive your salvation.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Priest sprinkles himself, ministers and congregation…*

May almighty God cleanse us from our sins and, through the celebration of

this Eucharist, make us worthy to share at the table of his Kingdom.

**All Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Word***

Readings of Sunday liturgy are proclaimed by Ministers of the Word

***Enrolment Ceremony***

**Reader:** Now we will have a short ceremony of enrolment for the children who are preparing for the first of many communions throughout their lives. In the Grow in Love programme, the children have been learning that through our Baptism each person has been called and chosen by God. Every time we gather as a circle of friends, as family, as a parish faith community, we do so in the company of our friend Jesus.

I invite the children who are preparing for Holy Communion to stand. The response to each promise is We Do. After the priest’s blessing, say Amen.

**Priest:** Girls and boys, you have been preparing to receive the gift of Jesus through Holy Communion since you were small. Next year you will receive communion for the first of many times, to nourish and strengthen you in life. As you prepare in a special way in the coming months, do you promise to listen carefully to all the people who will help you learn about God’s love?

**Children: We do**

**Priest:** Do you promise to try to get to know God better by praying at home with your family, by being a friend to Jesus and by coming to Mass regularly?

**Children: We do**

**Priest:** May you know God’s great love for you. May you experience much joy growing in love with Jesus. May this joyful love flow out to your families, friends and wider community?

**All: Amen**

**Reader:** Girls and boys, thank you. You may now sit down.

I invite all parents and guardians to stand for their commitment.

**Priest:** God has called and chosen you to be parents and guardians. You have asked that your children continue the faith journey that they began at their Baptism. Do you promise to help your child grow in love with Jesus by praying together at home and by committing to engage in the Grow in Love homework with your child?

**Parents:** I promise to pray with and encourage my child’s faith in this year of preparation for Holy Communion.

**Priest:** Do you promise to love, support and pray with your children as members of this parish community through regular celebration of Sunday Mass?

**Parents:** I promise to pray with my child and I commit to accompanying my child to Sunday Mass.

**Priest:** May God bless you abundantly with wisdom, patience, joy and laughter.

May you discover God’s love on this faith journey, more than you could ever imagine as your family grows in love.

**All: Amen.**

**Reader:** We invite everyone to stand

**Priest:** As members of the family of God it is our responsibility to be a welcoming, compassionate faith community.

Do you parishioners, promise to welcome and enable these families to deepen their faith and together as a faith community be a compassionate presence in our world?

**All: We do.**

**Priest:** As your priest, I commit to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus joyfully that together we may be a community gathered in love.

**All: Amen*.***

***Prayers of the Faithful***

**Priest**: Loving God, you call each one of us to be your friends. You choose each of us to be a sign of your love. We ask you now to hear the prayers of our hearts.

**Reader:** We pray for our faith leaders, especially Pope Francis and Bishop Ray, that through their care and guidance we will come to understand and respond to Jesus’ unconditional love for all people and creation. Lord, hear us*.*

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

**Reader:** We pray for all those who are sick or unwell, that they may experience God’s healing presence in their lives, through the people that care for them.

Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for all the people in our parish, that we may feel God’s loving presence close to us in times of struggle, loss and sadness. Lord, hear us.

**Reader:** We pray for all parents, that they will feel the tender love of God close to them as they nurture and love their children. Lord, hear us.

**Reader**: We pray for all children, especially the children in our parish who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion, that they may know and share the wonderful gift of Jesus’ friendship. Lord, hear us*.*

**Reader:** We pray for all who have died, that they may experience eternal peace.

Lord, hear us.

**Priest:** O God, generous creator of all life,

hear and answer the prayers of our hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:Amen.**

***Liturgy of the Eucharist***

***Communion Reflection***

**Reader*:***We have been given

eyes to see and ears to listen.

Tongues to speak for the innocent and the guilty,

to praise, encourage and support,

to proclaim in season and out, the news that is good news.

Hands to reach out and strengthen the fearful,

to protect the weak and lift up the fallen,

to embrace the dying,

to share burdens, and wipe away tears …

to build up, not to tear down,

to fan the embers, not to quench the smoldering wick,

to bless, not strike,

to give, not to withhold.           *- A Prayer from Zimbabwe*

***Before the Concluding Rite***

**Priest**

I invite the children who are preparing for Holy Communion to come up to the sanctuary to receive a candle. This candle may be lit when you pray at home as a family or when you are discussing your *Grow in Love* homework or at other special moments shared together at home.

*When each child has received their candle:*

***Priest to children and their families:***

Receive this candle. May lighting it at home remind you that this faithCommunity welcomes, encourages and supports you as a circle of faith friends. May Christ’s light always shine brightly in your hearts, your homes, in our parish and in the world.

**All: Amen.**

**Concluding Rite as usual**

**Closing Hymn:** Grow in Love (Grow in Love pg. 138)