

School Assembly for Those Sitting Exams 2023

The following Service is an opportunity to unite students in a moment of prayer and calm before the exams begin. Depending on the pastoral circumstances, it can be adapted for a brief moment of prayer at the beginning of each day. The attached prayer card/book marker can be offered to students sitting exams.

Leader:

Sign of the Cross

We come together in prayer this morning to pray for all our students sitting their Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations in our school over the coming weeks.

We turn first in thanks to God for the gift of learning and knowledge. We recognise how privileged we are to have access to courses and examinations, qualifications and training.

We come too, to ask God's help. We ask God to let the Holy Spirit be with us to guide our hearts and minds as we prepare and sit examinations and as we make decisions about our future. We shall now have a short reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians. (1:3-4, 9)

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: In the reading that you have just heard, we are reassured that God does hear us when we pray and that God will give us what we need if we ask. God hears all our prayers and will respond to our requests in a most generous way. So, with confidence in God's promise, we ask now for the gifts and graces that we need.

Intercessions:

Gracious and loving God,

We ask for the gift of perseverance as we prepare for our forthcoming examinations. Sustain us in our efforts, keep us faithful to our studies and help us to remember to pray to you for help when we need it. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Gracious and loving God,

We ask for the gift of wisdom. Enlighten our minds, help us to make the right study choices and to grow in knowledge and understanding. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Gracious and loving God,

We ask for the gift of humour. Help us to always keep things in perspective and not to get over-anxious about our exams. Help us to maintain a healthy balance of study, prayer and fun in our lives. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Gracious and loving God,

We ask for the gift of confidence. Help us to not be nervous or afraid so that we may do justice to all our hard work. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Gracious and loving God,

We ask for the gift of love. Help us to remember all those who have helped us prepare for this time of testing. We think particularly of our teachers and our parents. May we remember them with love and thanks. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Gracious and loving God,

We ask you for the gift of hope. Help us to see beyond these examinations and guide us to make the right choices for our future careers and lives. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Our Father....

Final Prayer

Gracious and loving God,

Listen and hear the prayers of all those who prepare for and sit examinations this year. Bless them with your love, grant them courage and strength to handle the pressure. Let your Holy Spirit direct their hearts and minds, giving them insight and confidence in their knowledge, and an ability to keep a perspective. We ask this and all these prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen

A PRAYER AT EXAM TIME.

(Adapted from Thomas Aquinas)

Come Holy Spirit,

true source of light and fountain of all wisdom,

pour out your wisdom upon all our examination students.

Send away any anxiety or worry that surrounds them.

Give to each of them, a penetrating mind to understand,

a retentive memory,

method and ease in learning,

the clarity to comprehend,

and abundant grace in expressing themselves.

Guide the beginning of their work,

direct its progress,

and bring it to a successful conclusion.

We ask this prayer to Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen.**