

## End of Year Primary School Mass - 2023

(The following is a suggested text for Mass at the end of the year with a

### Preparation for Mass

As the school year draws to a close, it affords the school community the opportunity to focus on the importance of "gratitude". In the classroom setting teachers may talk about the meaning of words such as "grateful", "gratitude", "appreciation", "thankfulness", focusing on the three essential words Pope Francis thought were necessary in every family: "please", "sorry", and "thank you". Invite the children to reflect on three things they are grateful for over the last year at school (friends, teachers, family, food, peace, etc.). They can write them on the template below, or something similar, and displayed/arranged at an "Appreciation Station" created where the Mass is to be celebrated.

As a backdrop to the Mass/Appreciation Station, students could make a display with "thank you" written in different languages, especially the languages of students attending the school.

THREE THINGS I AM GRATEFUL FOR:



## **Entrance Hymn**

*A suitable hymn is chosen from the Grow-in-Love programme.*

## **Penitential Rite**

Lord Jesus, you forgave those who had turned away from you.

Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you gave time to those who were lost and hurt.

Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to friendship with you. Lord have mercy.

## **Opening Prayer**

God our Father, you are the giver of all good gifts.

You surround us in this world with the beauty of creation and invite us to walk in your presence each day.

As we come to the end of another year at school

let us be thankful for all we have achieved through you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## **Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

But now, says Yahweh, who created you Jacob, and who formed you Israel. 'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine. Should you pass through the sea, I shall be with you, or through the rivers, they shall not swallow you up.

Should you walk through fire you will not be scorched and the flames will not burn you. You are precious in my eyes and I love you. Do not be afraid for I am not with you.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm**

*Teachers may choose an appropriate psalm from the 'Grow-in-Love' Programme.*

## **Second Reading**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for you all of you, I pray with joy remembering how you have helped spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the one who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*A suitable tone and verse may be chosen.*

## **Gospel**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. (8:4-8)

With a large crowd gathering, as people from every town find their way to him, he used this parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed. As he sowed some seeds fell on the edge of the path and were trampled on; and the birds of the air ate up. Some seeds fell on rock, and when it came up it withered away, having no moisture. Some seed fell amongst thorns and the thorns grew with it and

choked it. And some seed fell into rich soil and it grew and produced its crop a hundredfold. Saying this he said, 'Listen, anyone who has ears to hear!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.**

## **Homily**

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

#### **Celebrant:**

With gratitude in our hearts 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...

1. 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.**
2. We pray for children who do not have an opportunity to go to school, to learn about sports, music, maths, God etc. Provide them with schools that welcome them and help them to grow in wisdom and stature. **Lord, hear us.**
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.**

4. We pray for our families and loved ones who have helped us throughout this year. May we carry on the love and support they have given us. **Lord, hear us.**
  
5. For the gift of our friends: may we grow closer to one another over the summer holidays. **Lord, hear us.**
  
6. As we begin our summer holidays, we pray that we may be more helpful in our homes and not grumble when our plans are upset. May we be grateful for all that is done for us during our holidays. **Lord, hear us.**
  
7. We pray for the sick of our parish and for all our friends and relatives who are ill. Help them to experience your healing presence. **Lord, hear us.**
  
8. We pray for all the staff of (Name of School); caretakers, cleaners, teachers, secretaries, and board of management; may they have good health to continue their work and may they have support from everyone to do so. **Lord, hear us.**

**Celebrant:**

Heavenly Father,  
with gratitude in our hearts  
we bring our prayers before you this day,  
knowing that you care for us as a father loves his children.  
We ask you to grant them through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,  
with these gifts of bread and wine,  
accept us wholly - all that we are, and all that we do.  
By your power you transform them  
Into the mystery of our salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Preface

☩. The Lord be with you.

☩. **And with your spirit.**

☩. Lift up your hearts.

☩. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

☩. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩. **It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, although you have no need of our praise,  
yet our thanksgiving is itself your gift,  
since our praises add nothing to your greatness  
but profit us for salvation  
through Christ our Lord.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels,  
we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Eucharistic Prayer for Children**

Yes, Lord, you are holy;  
You are kind to us and to all.  
For this we thank you.  
We thank you above all for your Son, Jesus Christ.  
You sent him into this world  
Because people had turned away from you  
and no longer loved you.  
He opened our eyes and our hearts  
To understand that we are brothers and sisters  
And that you are Father of us all.

He now brings us together to one table  
and asks us to do what he did.

Father,  
We ask you to bless these gifts of bread and wine and make them  
holy. Change them into the body ✠ and blood of Jesus Christ, your  
Son.

On the night before he died for us,  
he had supper for one last time with his disciples.  
He took bread and gave you thanks.  
He broke the bread  
and gave it to his friends, saying:

**Take this all of you and eat of it:  
This is my body which will be given up for you.**

In the same way he took a cup of wine.  
He gave you thanks  
and handed the cup to his disciples, saying:

**Take this all of you, and drink from it:  
For this is the chalice of my blood,  
The blood of the new and eternal covenant,  
Which will be poured out for you and for many  
For the forgiveness of sins.**

**Do this in memory of me.**

The mystery of faith.  
**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

God our Father,  
We remember with joy  
All that Jesus did to save us.  
In this holy sacrifice,  
which he gave us as a gift to his Church,  
we remember his death and resurrection.  
Father in heaven accept us together with your beloved Son.  
He willingly died for us  
But you raised him to life again.



Jesus now lives with you in glory,  
But he is also here on earth, among us.  
One day he will come in glory  
And in his Kingdom  
There will be no more suffering,  
No more tears, no more sadness.

Father in heaven,  
You have called us  
to receive the body and blood of Christ at this table  
and to be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit.  
Through this sacred meal  
Give us strength to please you more and more.

Lord, our God  
Remember Francis, our Pope,  
Tom, our bishop, and all other bishops.

Help all to follow Jesus  
to work for peace  
and to bring happiness to others.  
Bring us all at the last  
together with Mary, the Mother of God,  
Joseph, her spouse,  
and all the saints,  
to live with you  
and to be one with Christ in heaven.

**Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for  
ever and ever.**

## **Communion Hymns**

Suitable hymns may be chosen from the Gro in Love Programme.

## **Post 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.

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**

God our Father,

You have gathered us around this table and fed us.

As we leave this place,

may all that we have shared together

be the foundations of our lives.

Protect us always, that we may live in peace with you  
and with one another.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn**

A suitable hymn may be chosen from the Grow in Love Programme.

## End of School Year Prayer (Optional)

God of wisdom,  
we thank you  
for all the gifts you have given us throughout this school year.  
We praise you for giving us life,  
for saving us in Christ,  
and for choosing us to be your people.  
As we come to the end of this school year, we voice our gratitude  
for the good things you have done in us, and we praise you for all who  
have shared in the work of this school.  
We ask you to bless them in your love and give them refreshment  
and peace.

We praise you, God,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns forever and ever.  
Amen.

(Source: CARFLEO)