

End of Year School Assembly Prayer Service for Primary School 2023

Preparation for the Prayer Service

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 Service/school assembly is to be celebrated.

As a backdrop to the Service/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.

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.**

Celebrant:

Jesus taught us to call God, Our Father. Together we pray in the words Jesus gave us:

Our Father.....

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.

Final Prayer

God our Father,
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.

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)