

6th Class Graduation Prayer Service

Welcome and Opening Hymn:



Procession with symbols

We have been part of this school community for eight years. We came with our many undiscovered God-given gifts and talents. Our teachers and parents have helped us to discover and to celebrate the gifts we have received from the Holy Spirit. The following symbols represent some of the many gifts and talents we have discovered within ourselves and have learned to use well for our own good

and the good of others.

- The Class photos represent the gift of friendship.
- Family photo-our homes are our first place of learning.
- School books-representing the learning which has occurred for each person.
- A football and basketball – representing the gift of sport and good team play.
- Religion book and crucifix (picture of patron saint of school) representing the gift of faith shared in this Catholic school.
- Flowers representing the way by which our school community cares for the world in which we live and how we have learnt to appreciate its' beauty.
- Shoes representing that we are taking a new step on our journey of life.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we come before you, as members of our school community,
a vital part of _____ Parish community,
to celebrate the end of a part of life's journey, for those who are graduating from sixth class.
All our gifts come from God and we now celebrate our use of those gifts discovered through
education. We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading – Jeremiah 31:3-4; 29:11-14

The Lord God has this to say to you today: I have loved you with an everlasting love and I am constant in my affection for you. I will build you up and I will protect you in good times and in bad. So be happy and go forth in the dancing of the merrymakers. I have plans in my heart for you: plans for peace, not disaster, plans to give you a future and a reason to hope. And remember, when you call upon me, and come and pray to me, I will hear you. You will seek me and find me: when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you.

The Word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm (Choose one)

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for 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 understanding so that you can always recognise what is best.

The Word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God

Alleluia:

Gospel John 15:9-17

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John All: Glory to you, Lord

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

The Gospel of the Lord All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Blessing of young people as they leave Primary School

(Invite all the young people to stand in their place)

We give thanks to God for the gift that you have been to our school community.

May you treasure your gifts and talents and use them well for your own good and the good of all whom you meet.

May you know God's great love for you and always believe and trust that He has a great plan for you.

May you always treasure the gift of faith and continue to grow in friendship with Jesus.

May God bless you as you set out on the next part of your journey in life.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing of Parents and Guardians

(Invite all parents and guardians to stand in their place)

We give thanks to God for the gifts which you have shared with your children and the school community. May you faithfully live your vocation to guide your children through life.

May you know that God is always present with you in your task of parenting.

May you be given strength and courage as you help your children to open up their boundless, God-given gifts and talents. May God bless you in all that you do.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Optional: We now invite our young people to come forward and to receive their Graduation Certificates which mark the end of their Primary Education.

(Presentation of Graduation Certificates)

Statement of young people (Stand holding your certificate)

I accept this Graduation Certificate as a sign that my Primary Education is now complete. I will leave **(school name)** with confidence in myself and believe that I have many God-given dreams yet to fulfil. I promise you, my parents/guardians, my teachers and the Parish community of _____ that I will always do my best as I try to live by the values which I have learnt at home and in school. I make this promise, to you, in the presence of God.

Intercessions

1. Let us pray for our parents and guardians, that they may believe in their own gifts and talents. **Lord hear us**
2. Let us pray for our children, that they may share and live God's message of hope wherever they are. **Lord hear us**
3. Let us pray for our teachers, that they may always follow Jesus' example as teacher. **Lord hear us**
4. Let us pray for all our loved ones who are sick, that they may be healed. **Lord hear us**
5. Let us pray to Mary, our Mother in Heaven that she may ask her Son, Jesus, to bring peace to our hearts. **Lord hear us**
6. Let us pray for all our loved ones who have died, that they may share in the joy of God's kingdom. **Lord hear us**
7. Let us pray quietly for our own intentions. **Lord hear us**

We bring all the prayers of the world before God in the words of the Our Father.

Our Father.....

Closing Prayer

May God, the Father protect us,
Jesus continue to teach us
and the Holy Spirit guide us lovingly
to live well the life God has given us.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **All: Amen.**



