



*Simplified Texts from Scripture and  
Prayers of the Faithful,  
for use in school and parish*

# *Liturgies*



*Compiled by Mairin Jackson, Diocesan Advisor [Primary Schools] Ferns*

Dear Reader

As we prepare for a very different Church in the years ahead, one which will depend greatly on the energy and enthusiasm of lay people and priests working together in a collaborative manner, we will need much preparation and many resources which can be used at a local level. This book provides a useful resource for teachers or catechists or indeed any lay person who will have the task of preparing liturgies in our schools or parishes. It offers a template for preparing school Masses or prayer services and a model for leading prayer in a parish in the absence of a priest. One of the great benefits of training or a resource like this is that it gives confidence to those who will be taking on unfamiliar roles. The purpose of all Liturgy is to lead people to God, to bring their needs before him and to build up an awareness that God is present in the gathering of the people to pray.

On behalf of all who will use it, I thank Mairin Jackson for her work in compiling the book and creating short, user friendly Scripture extracts especially appropriate for children. May all who use it develop a deeper understanding of their Baptismal calling to be people of prayer and carriers of the Gospel Message to others and may it draw all communities who use it, either in school or parish strongly together in the peace and companionship of Jesus.

+Ger Nash

Bishop of Ferns

*In 2021 I distributed a booklet which I had compiled to all the Primary schools in Ferns Diocese. This contained simplified Scripture readings and Prayers of the Faithful for use with children preparing for and celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. [The Readings and prayers which are in this booklet are also included on Pages 49 - 61] Since then, I have had many requests for materials which would be suitable for children's liturgies at other times of the academic year. This book is laid out according to the Academic Year calendar in our Primary Schools. It contains suggested and relevant First Readings, Responsorial Psalms, Second Readings and some Prayers of the Faithful. Some of these can be used for more than one of the occasions. The book might also be a useful resource which could be used by Parish groups who are preparing simple liturgies*

*I hope that within each section you will be able to find a reading suitable for readers of all levels of reading competence in the preparation and celebration of liturgies /masses throughout the year.*

*If you have any further suggestions please let me know.*

*In gratitude for your continuing dedication, and that of your colleagues in our Primary Schools, in faith formation and in preparing the children for their Sacraments.*

*Le gach dea ghúí,*

*Máirin Jackson,*

The cover photograph of "**The Baptism of Jesus**" is from an enamelled panel by artist Anne Murphy [Eala Irish Enamels]. This is located beside the Baptismal font in the Church of St. Ann and St. John in Rathgarogue, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Thanks to Anne and to Fr. Sean Devereux , PP Cushinstown, for their permission to use the piece.

## Contents:

<b>Introduction and Contents</b>		2 - 8
<b>Start of Year</b>	Readings	9
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	
<b>Harvest Thanksgiving</b>	Readings	13
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	
<b>November</b>	Readings	18
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	
<b>Christmas</b>	Readings	24
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	
<b>Catholic Schools Week</b> <i>[including Grandparents Day]</i>	Readings	28
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	
<b>Lent</b>	Readings	33
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	
<b>Easter</b>	Readings	39
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	
<b>First Reconciliation &amp; Eucharist</b>	Readings	42 / 45
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	
<b>Confirmation</b>	Readings	50
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	
<b>End of Year / Graduation</b>	Readings	63
	Psalms	
	Gospel Acclamations	
	Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions	

### **FIRST READING:**

The **First Reading** is usually taken from the Old Testament. This, the first and older section of the Bible, was originally written in Hebrew or Aramaic, and is accepted as being religiously inspired and sacred by both Jews and Christians. It begins with the creation, but the main theme of the Old Testament is the history of the Hebrews.

In addition, there are many examples of prophetic writing, poetry, [e.g. Psalms and Proverbs] and short narrative tales. Sometimes the first reading is from The Acts of the Apostles which gives an account of the early work of Jesus' friends as they spread "the Good News"

**Reader starts by saying** " The First reading is from....."

**Reader concludes with;** The Word of the Lord

**Congregational Response:** Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** The congregation is invited to "Stand to greet the Gospel" A Gospel Acclamation, which prepares us to hear the "Good News" is a phrase from Scripture which is relevant to the readings being proclaimed or to the particular occasion. The phrase is preceded and followed by "Alleluia" except during the Season of Lent.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** "Psalms" is a book of poetry with 150 chapters. The Hebrew title of this book means "songs of praise," while the Greek title, *Psalmoi*, has come to mean "sacred songs sung to musical accompaniment." The words of many hymns and contemporary worship songs are taken directly from the Psalms. For example "The Lord is my Shepherd" /" On Eagles Wings", the sung chants in Taize and even some popular songs such as "By the Rivers of Babylon" [Boney M]

Although David is credited with writing seventy-three of the poems, other contributors include Moses, Solomon, Asaph, and the Sons of Korah. The entire collection is thought to have been compiled over a period of a thousand years. In the context of our Catholic ceremonies the first main section is The Liturgy of The Word and within this the Responsorial Psalm is between the First and Second reading and can be read or sung. As the term "Responsorial Psalm" suggests a key message within the psalm is used as a response after each verse.

## SECOND READING:

The **Second Reading** of the mass is taken from the New Testament as are the Gospel readings. In the second reading we are listening to letters from Jesus' disciples to His followers and to the people in the towns in which they spoke about His life and His works. The term "Epistle " is the ancient Greek word for "letter "and can be a poem or other literary work in the form of a letter or series of letters. Many of these in the New Testament were credited to St. Paul but some were also written by James, Timothy and Peter.

The Epistles or "Letters from\_\_\_" were a common form of instruction and have their parallel in Islamic literature [rasáil]

Within each reading is a "Lesson" which exhorts the listeners to live as Jesus taught them.

If only one reading is being read at mass before The Gospel, it is taken from The New Testament followed by a Responsorial Psalm.

Many of the readings inserted within each Celebration can be effectively used for more than one of the occasions. I have inserted some a number of times where they may be relevant. The readings etc. are merely suggestions and allow for flexibility of choice.

**Reader starts by saying** " The First reading is from....."

**Reader concludes with;** The Word of the Lord

**Congregational Response:** Thanks be to God

*A child may also invite the congregation to stand to greet the Gospel.*

[Please note: "Alleluia" is not used during the Season of Lent, either in prayer or within the words of a hymn.] A **gospel acclamation** is a short, **simple statement of faith**, often sung or chanted. It is usually based on a biblical passage

**BOOKS in the OLD TESTAMENT:**

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

**BOOKS of THE NEW TESTAMENT**

<b>BIOGRAPHY [Gospels]</b>	<b>HISTORY</b>	<b>LETTERS[Epistles]</b>	<b>PROPHECY</b>
Matthew	Acts of the Apostles	Romans	Revelations
Mark		1 Corinthians	
Luke		2 Corinthians	
John		Galatians	
		Ephesians	
		Philippians	
		Colossians	
		1Thessalonians	
		2 Thessalonians	
		1 Timothy	
		2 Timothy	
		Titius	
		Philemon	
		Hebrews	
		James	
		1 Peter	
		2 Peter	
		1 John	
		2 John	
		3 John	
		Jude	

**The Gospels** tell the story of Jesus’ life on earth and each is written from a different perspective.

**Matthew** focuses on Jesus as a teacher and as the “new Messiah” and greater than all the prophets who had gone before Him. **Mark** also speaks about Jesus the Messiah and his narrative concentrates on how all of Jesus’ life on earth led to His death and resurrection. **Luke** takes a very historical perspective and relays the origins, birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension. **John** tells us the story of the life of Jesus from a very human aspect, focusing on what it means to be a believer of Jesus as He lived “in the flesh” . In this Gospel the miracles Jesus performed are told in detail.

**The Acts of the Apostles** is relaying to us an account of the early works of those spreading the news of the Gospels and establishing the church

**The Epistles** were letters written to the people visited by various disciples in their endeavours to spread the Good News, reminding them of all the important things they had been told.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL / PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

In the "Prayers of the Faithful/Intercession" we are invited to pray for the concerns of the Church and the world. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 69 says, "In the Universal prayer or Prayer of the Faithful, the people respond in some sense to the Word of God which they have received in faith and offer prayers to God for the salvation of all." In other words, the intention behind the inclusion of the prayers of intercession is to allow the congregation to ask God for His Help. These prayers are always addressed to God, Our Father. Prayers of thanks may be offered at some other point in the ceremony, for example after Communion or before the Concluding prayer.

The recommended order of the Prayers is ;

1. For the needs of the Church
2. For the world
3. For those in need
4. For the local community
5. For the Dead

These prayers are designed to be freely composed, church by church. In some cases the children may like to write them themselves. It is permitted to include more than one prayer under each recommended heading. The Prayers of Intercession are offered immediately after the congregation join the celebrant in reciting The Creed.

"The Prayers of the Faithful" are preceded by an invitation from the celebrant to the congregation to offer their intercessions and prayers of petition. Following the final Prayer of Intercession the celebrant will say a Concluding prayer.

*St. Paul advises us "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philipians 4:6*



The Readers finish each Prayer of Intercession / Prayer of the Faithful with one of the following or with a similar responses

Reader "Lord Hear us"

Congregation "Lord graciously hear us".

Reader "A Thiarna éist linn"

Congregation: "A Thiarna bí cheannsa agus éist linn"

Reader "Lord in Your Mercy"

Congregation "Hear out prayer"

Reader: "We pray to the Lord"

Congregation: "Lord hear our prayer"

*Depending on the circumstances, 4 - 6 prayers will be sufficient. These can be read by 1 child or a number of children. Most of them can be used throughout the year/repeated at various other liturgical gatherings.*

*Consider asking the children to compose these.*

## Start of a New Academic Year

Readings: If doing two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament.

At the end of each Reading **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Ezekiel 26:36

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I can remove from you your heart of stone which can hurt others and give you a heart which leads you to kindness."

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God

### Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not just rely on your own understanding, In all your ways try to do His will, and he will make your paths straight.

### Isaiah 41:31

"Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

### Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"

### Isaiah 43:18

Forget that which is of yesterday; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not see it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

### Lamentations 3:22

Because of the LORD's great love we will be Okay, for his compassions and His mercy never fail. They are new every morning; He is forever faithful

### 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks to God for all things - this is His will for us

### Philippians 3:13

Paul wrote "I might not yet understand everything but of this I am certain; we must forget what is behind and strive to make all right in what is ahead"

### 1 Peter 1:3

"Praise God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

### John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave them the right to become children of God

### Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set a desire to be with Him in the human heart; yet no one can understand what God has done from beginning to end.

### *Responsorial PSALMS*

#### Psalm 40: Response: I waited for the Lord

I waited patiently for the Lord, He turned and He heard my prayer **Response**

He lifted me up from danger and set my feet firmly on a rock. **Response**

No one can actually count His blessings - they are too many. **Response**

Psalm 118; Response: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good"

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love will last forever. Response

When I was in trouble I called out to the Lord and He heard my cry. Response

I will trust in the Lord at all times. He is my rock and my strength Response

Psalm 51 Response: Create in me a clean heart

Create in me a clean heart O Lord, let Your spirit be within me. Response

I do not want to be away from You O Lord Response

Renew in me the joy of knowing that You will protect and save me Response

### *Gospel Acclamation*

**Reader:** All please stand to listen to the Gospel.

- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. Jesus said "let the children come to me because it is to such as them that My Kingdom belongs". Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia Give thanks to God for all things - this is His will for us. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia, He has made everything beautiful in its time. Allelui

## **"Prayers of the Faithful/Intercession"**

[1] Father, as we prepare to start this school year we pray for all who teach us about You and about Your wonderful love for us. We pray especially for our Bishop ....., our priests, our teachers and our families.

Reader: }  
All: } See page 8

[2] For those of us who will receive the sacraments during this year we ask that you help us to use your blessings to become the best we can be.

[3] Father, May we always remain faithful to You, to our families and to all that is important in our lives. Give us the courage we need and the right judgement to live well.

[4] We ask that You keep us and our families safe and well during the coming year.

[5] A Thiarna, We are lucky to live in a society that offers us an education. We pray for children everywhere who are less fortunate than us.

[6] Dear Father, may we maintain the friendships that we make in school. Help us to realise the value of having and being a good friend.

[7] We ask you to bless and protect the children from our school who have started Secondary school. Help those also who are beginning a year in which they take a state exam.

[8] Lord, give peace to all who are grieving the loss of loved ones. We ask You to heal and comfort those who are sick.

[9] As we begin this new academic year we ask Your blessings on all who give freely and generously of their time so that we can pursue our various interests and hobbies.

[10] We pray for all our families with whom we spent time during the holidays. May we always show them love, kindness and treat them with respect.

[11] Father, we pray for all who follow a vocation to work for you. We pray that You may instil the desire for religious life in some men and women in our Diocese.

## Harvest Thanksgiving

**READINGS:** If doing two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament.

At the end of each Reading **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Genesis 8:11

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall always be with us."

### Genesis 2:15

"God took the man and woman and put them into the garden of Eden to care for and work with His creation."

### Leviticus 26:5

Indeed, your threshing will last for you until it is time to gather the grape, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will eat your food to the full and live securely in your land.

### Exodus 24:21

You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during ploughing time and harvest you shall rest.

### Isaiah 9:3

You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness;  
They will be glad in Your presence just like the gladness of harvest,

### Proverbs 10:5

Anyone who gathers the crops and fruit in summer is someone who acts wisely,  
But he who sleeps in harvest is someone who acts shamefully.

### 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of goodness. You will be rewarded in every way and will produce thanksgiving to God."

### Matthew 8:37

Then He \*said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

### John 4:35

Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

### Matthew 13:30

The people asked Jesus when they noticed weeds in the fields if they should pull them but He said " Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the weeds and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."

### Responsorial PSALMS:

*Psalm 67: The earth has yielded its produce;  
God, our God, blesses us.*

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us

*Response:*

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you *Response:*

May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will love and obey Him.

*Response:*

*Psalm 107: Sow fields and plant vineyards,  
And gather a fruitful harvest.*

He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness. *Response*

Sow fields and plant vineyards, pray that they may yield a fruitful harvest.

*Response*

Whoever is wise will listen to these words, And they will understand the loving kindness of the Lord. **Response**

*Psalm 88: Indeed, the LORD will give what is good,  
And our land will yield its produce.*

I will hear what God the Lord will speak, For He will speak peace to His people and to His saints **Response**

Surely His salvation is near to those who obey and love Him,  
His glory may dwell in our land. **Response**

Yes, the Lord will give what is good; And our land will yield it's produce.

**Response**

### *Gospel Acclamation*

**Reader:** All please stand to listen to the Gospel.

- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia Give thanks to God for all things - this is His will for us. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia, They are ripe for harvest. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia, some of the seed fell on good soil and produced well Alleluia.



## "Prayers of the Faithful/Intercession"

[1] Father, as we thank You for the harvest, we pray for all who plant in us the seeds of faith in You. We pray especially for our Bishop ....., our priests, our teachers and our families.

Reader: }  
All: } See page 8

[2] We ask that we may be like the good soil so that Your love and goodness may grow in us

[3] Father, May we always remain faithful to You, to our families and to all that is important in our lives. May we always nourish our faith by talking to You

[4] A Thiarna, We are lucky to live in a society where we have fresh food to eat. We pray for children everywhere who are less well off than us

[5] We ask that You keep all those who provide us with the fruits of the Harvest safe in their work

[6] Dear Father, may we appreciate all who work the land and who work in various ways to provide us with food and drink.

[7] Lord, give peace to all who are sad about the loss of loved ones. We ask you to heal and comfort those who are sick.

[8] As we thank You for this year's Harvest we ask that we never take our world for granted. Help those who guide us to make the right decisions in the care of our wonderful planet.

[9] We pray for all our families with whom we share mealtimes. May we always show them love, kindness and treat them with respect.

[10] Father, we pray for all who follow a vocation to work for you. We pray that You may instil the desire for religious life in some men and women in our Diocese.

[11] Father, You gave us a wonderful world. May we gratefully appreciate it and help to care for it.

[12] Lord of all living creatures we ask that You remind us of how we are responsible for the comfort and care of our pets.

## We Remember [November]

**READINGS:** If doing two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament.

At the end of each Reading **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Joshua 23:14

You know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that the Lord your God keeps all of His promises concerning you. All He has promised will happen.

### Song of Solomon 8:6

Set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm,  
for love is as strong as death

### Ezekiel 18:32

And the Lord said "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone"

### Ecclesiastes 9:5

For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have been rewarded.

### Ecclesiastes 12:7

Remember you are made from dust and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

### Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.

### Matthew 16:25

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

### Luke 23:43

And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

### **Luke 23:46**

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!' And having said this he breathed his last.'

### **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

### **John 11:25-26**

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'

### **John 14:1-4**

Do not be fearful or troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. I will go to prepare a place for you.

### **Romans 5:27-28**

Perhaps for a good person we would be prepared even to die— but God showed his love for us while we were still sinners, and Christ died for us.

### **Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Romans 8:38-39**

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Romans 14:8**

For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

### **1 Corinthians 15:21-22**

As a man Jesus died, but Jesus Christ the man also rose from the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in belief in Christ we can all be made alive.

### **1 Corinthians 15:26**

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

### 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. When this happens our earthly bodies will live forever with God in Heaven.

### 2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that even if our earthly home is destroyed, we can live in heaven with God.

### 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are on earth we must walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, because we know that we will be at home with the Lord.

### 2 Timothy 2:11

If we have died with him,  
we will also live with him.

### Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is said in the Word of God, a person can only die once, and after that comes judgment,

### Responsorial PSALM:

#### Psalm 23:4

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd, I will never be afraid*

He guides me along the right path, I will never be in need. **Response**

You have invited me to join You in the feast of life with You. We have been chosen. **Response**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will not be afraid **Response**

You are with me; You will comfort me. **Response**

### Psalm 73

Response: *God is the strength of my heart forever*

My earthly body may be no more but God is the strength of my heart forever.

*Response*

Even when I am in pain or trouble You are always with me. You hold me by my right hand. *Response*

You will guide me with Your advice and then welcome me into Your home.

*Response*

It is good for me to draw near to You. I have put my trust in You.

*Response*

### Psalm 11

Response *I will praise the LORD,*

In You Lord I take refuge in troubled times *Response*

The Lord is in Heaven, He sees what all of His people do. *Response*

I have run to the Lord, He keeps me safe *Response*

### Psalm 139

Response *Where shall I go Lord? You are everywhere.*

You have searched me and You know me Father. *Response*

Lord You know when I sit or when I stand - You are always ready to help me.

*Response*

You know the words I will speak, You are before and behind me. *Response*

You mark my journeys and know me and where I will go. *Response*

## *Gospel Acclamation*

**Reader:** All please stand to listen to the Gospel.

- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. You have searched me and You know me. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia Give thanks to God for all things - this is His will for us. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia, I have prepared a room for you in the house of My Father. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.." Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia, in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

## **"Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions"**

[1] A Thiarna, bless all who have gone before us. Help us to be part of their legacy of faith. We pray today that all the priests and teachers who worked with the children of this parish and who have died may Rest in Peace.

**Reader:** }  
**All:** } See page 8

[2] May our relatives and friends who have died rest in the comfort of Your Presence.

[3] We ask Your comfort for all who are sad following the death of someone they loved. As they are missing their loved ones help them to remember the good times they had together and to be grateful for them.

[4] We pray for those who are sick. Lord , send Your healing and comfort to them.

[5] We pray for those who over the years have given up everything, even their lives to protect and teach their beliefs. Their faith and bravery has made sure that we can freely praise You.

[6] Father, protect all those throughout the world who are in danger of persecution for Your sake.

[7] Father, there are many who do not have the comfort of knowing You in difficult times. Open their hearts to receive Your love.

[8] May we live as You want us to. As we live good lives we pray that we may show the light of Your love.

## CHRISTMAS

**READINGS:** If proclaiming two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament

At the end of each Reading **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the ruling of all people shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, Behold, your king is coming to you; He will bring right judgement and peace. He will be humble and will come mounted on a donkey.

**Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Matthew 1:22** All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a baby will be born, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which means God with us.

**Luke;2:7** Mary she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Luke 1:14;** You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

**Mark 1:1** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is here with the birth of Our Lord

**Luke 2:10** The angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

**1 Timothy** Great is the goodness of God. He is known as correct by the Spirit. Seen by Angels, proclaimed by the world, believed in by the people and has been resurrected in glory.



**Colossians 1:16** For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

**Luke 2:7** "Mary gave birth to her son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

### **Responsorial PSALM:**

**Psalm 18:** Response: *I will praise you among all nations and give thanks for Your name.*

I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, He will save me from danger. **Response**

You are my strength Lord, the God in whom I trust **Response**

I will call on the Lord and I will be saved from any trouble **Response**

**Psalm 91:** Response: *He will raise you up on eagles wings*

Anyone who lives in the shelter of God will be protected **Response;**

Say to the Lord "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust" **Response;**

The Lord will send His angels to guide and guard you. **Response;**

He will make you to shine like the sun **Response;**

### **Psalm 11**

Response *I will praise the Lord,*

In You Lord I take refuge in troubled times **Response**

The Lord is in Heaven, He sees what all of His people do. **Response**

I have run to the Lord, He keeps me safe. **Response**

## *Gospel Acclamation*

**Reader:** All please stand to listen to the Gospel.

- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory and praise to God Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia Give thanks to God for all things - this is His will for us.  
Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia, He has made everything beautiful in its time. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia, A son has been given to us. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia, Do not be afraid. We bring good news of great joy.  
Alleluia

## **"Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions"**

[1] A Thiarna., we pray that our teachers., priests., bishop and all who teach us about You will have a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Reader: }  
All: } See page 8

[2] We ask that You bless all the leaders and governments throughout the world. Guide them as they make decisions which affect all of us.

[3] At this time of celebration we pray for peace in the world. Bless all who are suffering because of violence or war.

[4] Remind us to thank You for the many blessings we have..

[5] Father, as we prepare for the birth of Your Son., Jesus., help us to focus on the true meaning of this wonderful Season.

[6] May we be sensible and unselfish in our Christmas gift requests. Help us to be grateful for all that we have.

[7] Many children around the world will be without enough food and may even be without love this Christmas. We ask that You bless them and show them Your love.

[8] Bless all who may be sick or in hospital during this special time. May they know the hope that comes from faith in You.

[9] We know that there are many in our families and communities who are saddened by the loss of a friend or family member. May they experience Your comfort and the support of those around them.

[10] May the Peace and Joy of Christmas soften the hearts of those who turn their backs on their faith so that they may know the love You have for them

[11] Keep us safe and protect all who travel to be with their families this Christmas.

[12] Father, we pray for all who follow a vocation to work for you. We pray that You may instil the desire for religious life in some men and women in our Diocese.

[13] *Go mbeirimid go léir beo ag an am seo arís*

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Week [Including Grandparents Day]

**READINGS:** If proclaiming two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament. The Psalm is read between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading or after the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

At the end of each Reading. **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Jeremiah 29:11** "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

**Deuteronomy 31:6** Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble. The Lord, your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or leave you alone"

**Isaiah 41:** Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will help and support you.

**Isaiah 46:4** Even in your old age I am He, I am He who will always be there for you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will keep you strong and I will rescue you from any harm.

**Proverbs 13:22** Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren...

**Jeremiah 17:7** Blessed are all who trust in the Lord. They are like a tree that grows by water with it's roots in the river - it need not be afraid of hot weather or drought.

**Romans** "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us. When we listen to the Word of God in Scripture we can get the courage, the strength and the encouragement, to live in hope."

**John 14:5** Jesus said to the disciples, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. Believe"

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Him who makes me feel strong and able.

**John 1:5** Many welcomed Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, especially to those who believed in His name,

**Romans 1:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called as is in His plan

**Philippians 4:** And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**Hebrews 13:5:** Make sure that your character is free from the love of money and things which really don't matter, being content with what you have; He Himself has said, "I will never leave or desert you"

**Romans 8:38:** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor any rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Roman** Therefore, because we have faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing is impossible to God

**Romans 5:2** Walk in love, just as Christ loved you and gave Himself up for us. Offer glory and praise to God.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would live well as He taught us to.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16** Rejoice always; pray as much as you can; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have troubles, but have courage; I have overcome the world."

**2 Timothy 1:7** For God has not given us a spirit of being scared, but He has given us a spirit of power and love and discipline.

**1 Chronicles 16:11** Seek the Lord and His strength for you. Seek Him all the time.

**2 Timothy 1:5.** I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother and in your mother and, I can clearly see, now lives in you also. There is, perhaps, nothing more important than passing down a heritage of faith.

### Responsorial PSALMS:

#### Psalm 92

Response: *They will still bear fruit in old age*

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to His name. **Response**

You O Lord have made me glad with what You have done **Response**

Those who listen to Your word flourish and grow like the cedars of Lebanon  
**Response**

**Psalm 145** Response : *One generation shall speak of your works to another.*

I will bless Your name forever, I will tell of Your works. **Response**

Great is the Lord, may His greatness be praised. **Response**

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and quick to show mercy.  
**Response**

**Psalm 90** Response: *Lord May we get hearts of wisdom*

*Teach us to value our days that we may get a heart of wisdom*

Lord, even before the mountains were formed You were our shelter **Response**

The years of our lives can be few or many, but they are soon gone, they fly away  
**Response**

Let Your work be shown to all **Response**

Make us glad of the days You give us. **Response**

### *Gospel Acclamation*

**Reader:** All please stand to listen to the Gospel.

- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. Let the Lord be pleased with us. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia *Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, Alleluia*
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia, He has made everything beautiful in its time. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia, The things we know we will teach to others. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia,. "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. Alleluia

### **"Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions"**

**Reader:** }  
**All:** } See page 8

[1] A Thiarna,  
We pray for our families, teachers, priests and communities as we celebrate  
Your Presence in our lives during Catholic Schools Week.

[2] Dear Father we pray that we may all walk together in Faith and Love as we  
learn to live as You would like us to.

[3] We ask you Lord that You comfort those living with sadness or sorrow,  
giving them hope for the future.

[4] Father bring hope to all the children throughout the world who live in fear or who are the victims of war or violence.

[5] A Thiarna, We pray in the hope that world leaders will work together for peace and love for everyone

[6] A Thiarna, We pray that we ourselves, all who are here today, and everyone joining us online, may experience the hope that comes from knowing You.

[7] Grandparents are a blend of laughter, caring deeds, wonderful stories and love. Please bless our grandparents and keep them well.

[8] May we always show respect to each other, to our parents and our community and most especially to our grandparents and the elderly.

[9] We ask You that we may nurture and protect the faith that has been gifted to us.

[10] Father, we pray for all who follow a vocation to work for you. We pray that You may instil the desire for religious life in some men and women in our Diocese.

[11] May any of our grandparents who have died rest in the peaceful comfort of Your Presence.

[12] Father, we pray for all who follow a vocation to work for you. We pray that You may instil the desire for religious life in some men and women in our Diocese



## LENT

*Lent is typically observed in preparation for commemorating Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. From Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, it has been customary to fast or abstain from something. Much like how we prepare for other significant events in our personal lives, such as weddings or birthdays, Lent calls for us to ready our minds and hearts to remember the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. NOTE: As the word "Alleluia" is one of celebration it is not used during the season of Lent either as part of a prayer or in song.*

**READINGS:** If proclaiming two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament. The Psalm is read between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading or after the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

At the end of each Reading **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Isaiah 58** I have chosen a fasting where I will try to help those suffering injustice and help those in need.

**Joel 2:** "Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart with fasting and sadness for any wrong you may have done. Return to the Lord your God, for he is kind, slow to anger and generous in love.

**Isaiah 30:18** Yet the Lord wants to be kind to you; He will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

**Lamentations 3:25** The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the ones who seek him;

**Micah 7:** But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.

**Hosea 12:6** But you must return to your God; do what is right and just, and wait for your God always.

**Jeremiah 29:12** Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

**1 Peter** Humble yourselves, therefore, be prepared to say sorry for any wrong you may have done, so that He will lift you up in His own time. Cast all your worries on him because he cares for you.

**Matthew 6:** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Matthew 6:** When you fast, do not look sad and sorry for yourself to show others that you are fasting. But when you fast, let it be known only to your Father in Heaven, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Romans 12** Let Hope in God make you Joyful; If you are in pain or sick try to be patient; and remember to pray

**Matthew 6:33** But first and most importantly try to look for the Kingdom of God, and all things will be given to you

**Galatians 5:5** For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the blessings for everything we hope for.

**John 16:33** I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

**Mark 1:** The Spirit sent Jesus out into the wilderness and there He stayed for 40 days and 40 nights. He prayed and fasted and spoke to His Father in Heaven. After 40 days He called His disciples and said to them " The time has come, the Kingdom of God is near. Be sorry for all your wrongs and Believe the Good News."

**Luke 23:** There were two robbers beside Jesus. One of them was a bully and said to Jesus in a mean voice " If God is your Father why don't you save yourself? The other robber gave out to the first one and said "We deserve to be here - we have broken laws, we have done wrong and we have hurt people.

This man has done nothing wrong." Jesus turned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> robber and said "I see that you are sorry for your deeds. This day you will be with me in heaven"

### **Responsorial PSALMS:**

**Psalm 42:** Response *My soul thirsts for God. When can I go and meet with God?*

Why do I feel sad? Help me O Lord I need You. **Response**

I will hope in God, in Him I will find a hiding place. **Response**

Send Your light and Your truth. Then I will praise You in song. **Response**

**Psalm 33** Response: *We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.*

In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us. **Response**

Sing to the Lord a new song **Response**

The Lord sees those who honour Him, He knows who hope in is love. **Response**

**Psalm 27** Response: *Show me Your ways Lord*

Show me Your ways Lord, teach me the paths that I should take. **Response**

The Lord is my strength. There don't need to be afraid of anyone. **Response**

Wait for the Lord, be strong, have courage. **Response**

## *Gospel Acclamation*

**Reader:** All please stand to listen to the Gospel.

- ❖ I believe I shall look on the goodness of the Lord  
Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus.
- ❖ The stone that the builders said was no good became a corner stone  
Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus.
- ❖ Go and prepare a room for me so that I can celebrate Passover with my  
friends  
Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus.
- ❖ Father, let this trouble pass me by, but if it can't I will do what You want.  
Praise and honour to You, Lord Jesus.

### **"Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions"**

**Reader:** } See page 8  
**All:** }

[1] Bless our parents, teachers, priests, Bishop - and all who teach us about You.

[2] We come to You this Lent to humbly ask You to forgive us any wrongs we might have done and to forgive us if we have failed to do good when we could have.

[3] May we remember to treasure our blessings this Lent and to thank You for them Father. We will try to remember those who have so much less than us.

[4] A Thiarna, teach us how to help others and to find ways that we can make life a bit easier for anyone who is finding it difficult. Remind us that our words can hurt when we don't use them kindly.

[5] We pray that we use the wonderful technology available to us well. May we never use social media or any other technology to hurt or make anyone feel bad.

[6] You gave us a wonderful world. Remind us that it is the responsibility of each of us to look after it.

[7] Father, guide and counsel the leaders of the nations of the world to make good decisions.

[8] Teach us to think Lord about the time Your Son spent in the desert in prayer and fasting. We pray that we may find some way during the 40 days of Lent to honour the story of Easter.

[9] Your Son, Jesus, knew what it was like to be ridiculed, scorned and ignored. We pray that we never do that to anyone. Give us the courage to stand up for anyone we feel in being treated unfairly.

[10] For those of us here who have recently received the sacrament of Confirmation, and for those who are preparing to receive it, we pray that we will use the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit to help us to become the best we can be.

[11] Lord, give hope to any who are sick either at home or in hospital. Comfort anyone who is missing someone who has died

## EASTER:

**READINGS:** If proclaiming two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament. The Psalm is read between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading or after the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

At the end of each Reading **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Isaiah 53** "He was pierced for our sins, he was crushed for our wrong doings; But His suffering brought us peace, and by his wounds we are healed."

**Isaiah 53:** He was beaten and He suffered, yet He did not ask them to stop; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open his mouth."

**Isaiah 53:** They brought Him to a place where wicked people were brought to be crucified. He was buried in a tomb in the place of the rich. But He had done no wrong, neither had He said anything untrue

**John 11;** Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die they will live with Me through the Father and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.'

**1 Peter 1:3:** "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has given us new birth and a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

**1 Corinthians 15:21:** "For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man."

**Luke 24:6-7:** "He is not here; he has risen!"

**Philippians 2:8:** "As Jesus had lived as a human, he humbled himself by being obedient to His Father— even to accepting death on a cross!"

**1 Corinthians 6:14:** "And God raised the Lord Jesus - and will also raise us up by his power."

**Romans 6:9:** "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has any power over him."

**Romans 8:34:** "Christ Jesus who died and who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is asking God to help us and to look out for us."

**Matthew 28:5-6:** "The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.'"

**John 14:6:** "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

**Thessalonians 4:14:** "For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

**Luke 23:46-47:** "Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, 'Surely this was a good man.'"

**Corinthians 5:17:** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

**Luke 24:** "They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus."

**Acts 4:33:** "With great power the apostles continued to tell everyone about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. They were able to find the courage because God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all."

**1 Corinthians 1:18:** "For the message of the cross might sound like foolishness to those who are don't want to hear it but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

**Hebrews 4:** Since we have Jesus, the Son of God as our High priest, let us hold firmly to our faith... We know that we can approach God with confidence and know that we will receive mercy and find grace to help us in the time of our need.

**John 3:16** God loved the world so much that He gave us His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will know His love and have eternal life.

**Luke 22:** Jesus went, as was his habit, to the Mount of Olives. Finding a quiet place to pray, He cried out to His Father "Father, if it is possible, take away this suffering which I am facing. But if it is not possible, let not what I want but what You want happen.

### Responsorial PSALMS:

**Psalm 22:** Response: *My God, My Father, why have You forgotten me?*

They pierce my hands and my feet. People stare and jeer at me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." **Response:**

All who see me mock me, they say "he trusts in the Lord, let Him save Him.

**Response**

I know Lord that You are not far away, You are my help, come and save me **Response**

**Psalm 16:** Response: *You are my God, I am nothing without You.*

Preserve me O Lord, in You I take refuge **Response**

The Lord is my chosen way to live, He holds my life. **Response**

In God I have a beautiful inheritance of faith. **Response**

I have set the Lord before me, because He is at my right hand I will not be shaken. **Response**

*Any of the Psalms used in previous ceremonies are suitable to be used here or anywhere throughout the year.*



*NOTE: As the word "Alleluia" is one of celebration it is not used during the season of Lent either as part of a prayer or in song until during and after the Easter Saturday ceremonies.*

### *Gospel Acclamation*

**Reader:** All please stand to listen to the Gospel.

- ❖ The new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
- ❖ God's grace was so powerfully at work
- ❖ Let not what I want, but what You want happen.
- ❖ 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'
- ❖ He is not here. He is Risen

### **"Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions"**

**Reader:** } See page 8  
**All:** }

[1] Father, as we prepare to head into the most special time in the church year, we pray for all who teach us about You and about the wonderful events at Easter. We pray especially for Bishop ..., our priests, our teachers and our families,.

[2] For those of us here who have recently received the sacrament of Confirmation, and for those who are preparing to receive it, we pray that we will use the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit to help us to become the best we can be.

[3] Father, May we always remain faithful to You, to our families and to all that is important in our lives. Give us the courage we need and the right judgement to live well.

[4] A Thiarna, we pray that we will always be loyal to our friends and appreciate the value of their loyalty to us.

[5] We ask you Lord to bless all who are sick, bereaved or who are suffering in any way. We pray that they may know the comfort of Your love and peace.

[6] We pray for those who struggle to believe in You and ask that You open their hearts and minds to the Joy of the Easter season.

[7] Your Resurrection brought to us a new hope. We pray that we might be open to this renewal.

[8] Thank You for the hope which Easter gives to us. Please bring hope to those who are in despair, whether through poverty, war or lack of faith in Your goodness.

[9] Comfort those who are in sadness. Remind them that those who believe are never alone

[10] A Thiarna, we pray that we can make a difference in the world by living Your way. By our example let us witness to the joy of Your Presence.

[11] May the wonder of Easter inspire the leaders of our nations to make the lives of their people more joyful.

[12] May we have the courage to declare "Alleluia Jesus is Risen. I believe".

[13] Father, we pray for all who follow a vocation to work for you. We pray that You may instil the desire for religious life in some men and women in our Diocese.

## FIRST RECONCILIATION and FIRST EUCHARIST

### First Reconciliation (Confession/Penance):

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation/ First Penance often gets lost or considered unimportant in the light of the great preparations for First Eucharist / First Communion. It is however one of the 7 Sacraments and is a very important step in the moral and religious development of a child. It marks the beginning of the age of reason whereby the child must start to recognise that all actions have consequences. More importantly however, it is an opportunity to teach our children that when they take responsibility for their deeds and express remorse, they will always be forgiven by God. It is a time also when we can help the child to know without doubt that even though God [or indeed we] might not like something they do they will always be loved for themselves.

Consider dramatising in mime or with a simple script some relevant stories from Scripture for this ceremony e.g. Zacchaeus or The Prodigal Son.

#### Readings:

**Daniel 9:9** "The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we might have turned away from Him."

**Isaiah 43:25** "I, am he who blots out any wrong you do and remembers your sins no more ..."

**Isaiah 1: 18** "Come now, let us settle the matter, "says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow

**Ephesians 4:32.** "Be kind to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

**Matthew 6:** And please forgive us any wrong we do just as we forgive those who do wrong to us

**John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and kind and will forgive us our sins."

### **Responsorial PSALMS:**

**Psalm 103: Response: He has forgiven our sins**

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. **Response**

Bless the Lord my soul. He lifts us up from bad places **Response**

The love of the Lord is everlasting for those who listen to Him. **Response**

**Psalm 26: Response : Lord, Test my heart and my mind**

Your love is before my eyes O Lord, I will walk in faith **Response**

My feet are on level ground, I will bless the Lord. **Response**

I love my God and do not sit with liars or bad people. **Response**

**Psalm 32: Response: Blessed are those who God forgives**

Blessed are we who have confessed and have been forgiven. **Response**

You will guide me with Your advice and I will listen. **Response**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice in his love and mercy for us. **Response**

**Psalm 40: Response: I waited for the Lord, he turned to me and heard me**

I waited patiently for the Lord, He turned and He heard my prayer **Response**

He lifted me up from danger and set my feet firmly on a rock. **Response**

The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise for His mercy. **Response**

Many O Lord, are the things You have done for me. No one can actually count their blessings - they are too many. **Response**

**"Prayers of the Faithful/Intercession"**

[1] Father, as we thank You for this special occasion, we pray for all who teach us right from wrong. We pray especially for our Bishop ....., our priests, our teachers and our families.

**Reader:** }  
**All:** } See page 8

[2] We pray for the courage to say sorry

[3] We ask that we may never be the cause of any hurt to anyone through what we say or what we do

[4] We ask You to help us make right choices and to be stand up for what is right.

[5] As we prepare for our First Communion help us to remember how important it is for us to listen to Your words.

[6] May we always forgive others just like You forgive us

## FIRST EUCHARIST

**READINGS:** If proclaiming two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament. The Psalm is read between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading or after the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

At the end of each Reading **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Mark 10:14** "Let the little children come to me, for it is to them that kingdom of heaven belongs."

**Luke 2:7** "Mary gave birth to her son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

**Luke 1:30-31** "The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, God knows that you are a very good person. You will have a son and you will call him Jesus."

**John 6:35** "Jesus said to them, 'I am the Bread of Life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.'"

**John 6:32-34** "Jesus said to them, 'Listen to me, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Lord, give us this bread always.' "

**1 Corinthians 11:23-25** "I am giving You the message which the Lord gave to me. On the night when Jesus was betrayed He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in to remember me.' In the same way He took the cup supper, saying, 'This cup is the cup of My blood. It is a new promise. Do this, every time you drink it, to remember me.'

**1 John 4:16** "God is love, and he who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him."

**John 6:66-69** "Jesus said to the Twelve, 'Will you also go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, who would we go to? We believe, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God. You are the one whose words we want to listen to' "

**Matthew 5:8** "Blessed are they who are pure in heart, for they shall see God."

**John 6:54-55** "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day"

**John 8:12** "Jesus spoke to them, saying: 'I am the Light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

**Matthew 18:3** "Unless you become like a little child, you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

**John 15:12** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

**John 20:29** Jesus said to Thomas: "You believe because you have seen. Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believe."

**John 10:11** "Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and they know me.'"

**Philippians 2:10** "Every knee will bow and every tongue will say that Jesus Christ is Lord."

**John 14:6** "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me.' "

**John 1:38** "The disciples asked, 'Lord, where do you live?' Jesus said, 'Come and see.'"

**1 Corinthians 3:16** "Do you not know that you are God's temple, and that God's Spirit lives in you."

**1 Thessalonians 5:16** "Always be joyful, pray as often as you can, give thanks all the time, no matter what is happening; for this is what God wants for you in Jesus' name."

**1 Corinthians 16:13-14** "Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, have courage, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

**Matthew 7:7** "Ask, and it will be given you; when you look for God you will find Him."

**1 Corinthians 13:4** "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful."

### Responsorial PSALMS:

**Psalm 118; Response:** "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good"

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love will last forever. **Response**

When I was in trouble I called out to the Lord and He heard my cry. **Response**

I will trust in the Lord at all times. He is my rock and my strength **Response**

**Psalm 51 Response:** *Create in me a clean heart*

Create in me a clean heart O Lord, let Your spirit be within me. **Response**

I do not want to be away from You O Lord **Response**

Renew in me the joy of knowing that You will protect and save me **Response**

**Psalm 23:4 Response:** *The Lord is my shepherd, I will never be afraid*

He guides me along the right path, I will never be in need. **Response**

You have invited me to join You in the feast of life with You. I have been chosen. **Response**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will not be afraid **Response**

You are with me; You will comfort me. **Response**

**Psalm 11 Response** *I will praise the LORD,*

In You Lord I take refuge in troubled times **Response**

The Lord is in Heaven, He sees what all of His people do. **Response**

I have run to the Lord, He keeps me safe **Response**



**Psalm 91; Response: It is good to thank the Lord**

It is good to thank the Lord, to sing praise to His name. **Response**

It is good to tell everyone about His love which lasts forever. **Response**

You, O Lord, have made me happy. I will sing for joy. **Response**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Reader:** All please stand to listen to the Gospel.

- ❖ Alleluia, alleluia. Let the children come to Me. Alleluia"
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia Jesus said Do this in Memory of Me Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia Ask and it will be given to you Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia

**"Prayers of the Faithful/Intercession"**

[1] Father, as we thank You for this special occasion, we pray for all who teach us about Jesus. We pray especially for our Bishop ....., our priests, our teachers and our families.

**Reader:** }  
**All:** } See page 8

[2] We pray for all the boys and girls in the world who will be receiving Jesus for the first time this year

[3] We pray for the poor and homeless children here in Ireland and throughout the world

[4] We ask that we realise how blessed we are and that we are always thankful for everything

[5] We pray for the people who travelled today to help us to celebrate this very special day. Look after them and keep them safe on their journeys.

[6] We ask You today dear God, to help the sick to be patient in their illness.

[7] We pray for any of our family and friends who have died. We know that You wrap them in Your loving arms. Comfort all of us who miss them

[8] We ask you Father to bless all who work in our communities to make life better for others.

[9] A Thiarna. Is breá linn beith anseo inniu.

[10] We pray that we may give honour to You and show respect for the wonderful gift that You have given us today

[11] You gave us a wonderful world. Remind us that it is the responsibility of each of us to look after it.

[12] Give us the courage to ask for Your help. We pray that we will receive You many, many times in Communion.

[13] Father, we pray for all who follow a vocation to work for you. We pray that You may instil the desire for religious life in some men and women in our Diocese.

## CONFIRMATION

**READINGS:** If proclaiming two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament. The Psalm is read between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading or after the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

At the end of each Reading **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Isaiah 11:2:** The Spirit of the Lord will rest on those who give thanks and praise to Him. This Spirit is one of knowledge, understanding, good advice and strength from God.

**Ezekiel 36:26** And I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put in you. I will put my Spirit within you and then you shall know my will and try to obey my laws.

**Genesis 1:2** The Earth was still empty and without light but the Spirit of God was hovering over it.

**Zechariah 4:6:** This is the Word of the Lord - It is not by might or by power that I will be great, but by The Spirit of God within me.

**Nehemiah 9:20** You gave them Your Spirit to guide them and to teach them. You did not let the people be hungry or thirsty

**Samuel 10:10:** When he and those with him came to the hill, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him strongly, so he told the people with him what was to happen and he reassured them of God's protection.

**Exodus 33:14** And He said, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest."

**Isaiah 63:11** Then His people remembered the days of old, of Moses. And they wondered 'Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of His flock? Where is He who put His Holy Spirit in the middle of them, or He who was as the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them?'

**Isaiah 49:1** Do not be afraid. I am with you. I have written your name on the palm of My hand.

**Proverbs 20:11** Even as a child if you behave well and as God wants, you will be known by this way of living.

**Isaiah 59:21** "As for Me, this is My agreement with them," says the Lord: "I promise you, My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall always be in your mouth and in the mouths of your children and in the mouths of your grandchildren from now and forever." This is my covenant

**Jeremiah: 31:33** But this is the promise which I will make with the house of Israel said the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "and I will forgive and forget their sins"

**Isaiah 11:2** The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him who believes,  
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The spirit of counsel and strength,  
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

**Ezekiel 39:29** I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord God.

**Isaiah 44:3** I will pour out water on the thirsty land  
And streams on the dry ground;  
I will pour out My Spirit on your children  
And My blessings will be on your descendants.

**Isaiah 43:1** Do not be afraid, I am looking after you. I have called you by your name -You are Mine. When you face any difficulty or challenges, I will be with you, for I Am the Lord your God.

**Proverbs 4:5** Get Wisdom, get understanding and do not forget or turn away from My words. Wisdom will protect you. Getting wisdom is the wisest choice you will make

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust the Lord your God with all your being and heart. Do not try to understand everything yourself but ask God for help, and He will straighten out the paths before you.

**Isaiah 61:1** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
Because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the suffering;  
He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted ,To proclaim freedom to prisoners; To comfort all who mourn.

**Acts 9:1 - 15:** Saul was still saying mean and nasty things about God's people. God asked Saul "Why are you mean to my people? Saul answered angrily "God, what do you want of me?" God told him to go to Ananias, the High Priest. Saul, who was still blind from his fall, stumbled to the town. Meanwhile God told Ananias "When Saul comes to you, do not think of the bad things he has done but restore his sight. He has been chosen by me to help spread my truth". This is what happened and Paul, as he was now called, spent the rest of his life sharing the good news of God.

**Acts 2:28** Peter said to the people; Tell God that you are sorry for times you were not as good as you can be. You have been baptised in the name of Jesus—the gifts of The Holy Spirit are in and with you.

**Acts 1:8** You will receive power once the Holy Spirit has come to you and because of this you will be seen by others to act as Jesus taught you. You can be His witness all over the world.

**Acts 2:1** When the day of Pentecost came many of Jesus'

followers were all together in one place. Suddenly there came from above the sound of a mighty rushing wind — it completely filled the house and the room. It appeared as if divided tongues of fire rested above the head of each one of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak of God's word. And even those with different languages understood one another. And no one felt afraid to speak about Jesus anymore.

**Romans 15:23** May the God of Hope fill you with all the Joy and Peace that comes when you believe. By the Power of the Holy Spirit you will be filled with Hope.

**2 Corinthians 3:27** Now the Spirit is the Lord, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

**John 16:22-25** Jesus said "I still have lots to tell you but I don't think you can heed anymore at this time. When The Spirit comes He will help you to know the truth. He will be speaking for God and you will be able to follow His words. He will be able to tell you what is going to happen. And He will give glory and praise to Me and to My Father in Heaven."

**John 16:7** Jesus told His friends "Do not be upset when I go away but try to see that it is to your advantage.. If I go I will send the Holy Spirit to you as a helper. He will help the world to see where it is going astray and will convince all who will listen to you to believe in Me."

**Romans 5:5** We are not put to shame because God's love has been poured into us, into our hearts and minds, through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

**Romans 8:26** The Spirit helps us in our weakness. When we don't know how to pray or what to pray for The Holy Spirit asks God for us.

**Ephesians 1:13** And you too, when you heard the words of truth and believed in them, you were sealed with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 4:31** When the disciples had prayed, the place they were gathered together in was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They got courage and confidence and spoke the Word of God without fear.

**John 24:26** Do not worry when I am gone back to my Father in Heaven. My Helper, The Holy Spirit, will be sent to you in my name. He will teach you what you need to know and will remind you of everything I have told you.

**Titus 3:5** God saved us, not because of anything we had done, but because of His Mercy. He renewed us by sending the Holy Spirit to us in the name of Jesus Our Lord.

**Romans 8:26** The Holy Spirit helps us when we are stuck for words to use in prayer. He knows what we need and He asks God with thoughts that are too deep for words

**Romans 5:3** We can perhaps be thankful for the hard times. Hard times and difficulties help us to be stronger in our hearts and minds. Being stronger helps to make us better people and this helps to give us more hope. Hope is from and in God because He has poured love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

**Timothy 1:7** Through the Holy Spirit, God gave us courage, power and self control. We are not afraid.

**Galatians 5:22** The fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control. There is no law against any of these things.

**Romans 8:14** All who are led by The Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God.

**1 Corinthians 12:1 - 11** Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I want you to know this about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. There are different gifts just as there are different people. But the Gifts all come from the same God. The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. To some the Spirit gives Wisdom, to others Knowledge. Some might receive the gift of Faith and some the gift of performing Miracles. Some are enabled to know what the future holds through the gift of Prophecy. Others may receive the gift of Languages and yet someone else might receive the gift to Understand everything which is being spoken. No matter which gift is given, it is decided by and comes from God through the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12 - 27** There is one body but many parts. Once you have received the Holy Spirit you become part of the Body of Christ and each part of the body is important. If the foot says 'I am not a hand so I am not as important' it cannot stop being a foot. Suppose the ear thinks it doesn't belong because it is not an eye - but if the whole body were an eye how could it hear or if it were an ear how could it see or smell? All parts of the body work together. So it is with you, you are part of the body of Christ which is made up of all who believe in Him.

### **Responsorial PSALMS:**

**Psalm 23: Response: The Lord is my Shepherd He knows all my needs**

He helps me to find ways to rest and to relax in His Presence. **Response**

Even when things are not going well and I am worried, He calms me and protects me. **Response**

He invites me to His table and He fills me with peace. **Response**

Surely His goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. **Response**



**Psalm 136: Response: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good**

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love will continue forever. **Response**

He made the sun, the earth ,the moon and in the stars in His wisdom. **Response**

**Psalm 1 Response: Blessed are all who delight in the Lord**

Blessed are all who delight in the Lord And all who think about His ways every day. **Response**

They are like trees planted near the water, Who yield good fruit every season. **Response**

The Lord watches over all who do what is right. They will prosper under His care. **Response**

**Psalm 103 Response: O bless the Lord, my soul!**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;and may all of me bless His holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,let me not forget how He looks after me. **Response**

He forgives all my mistakes, He heals all my illness.

He rescues me from difficulty, He crowns me with kindness and compassion.

**Response**

**Psalm 111 Response: The Lord will remember His promises for ever.**

I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart when I am with people who love God. Great are the works of the Lord. **Response**

He has become famous for His wondrous deeds; kind and merciful is the Lord.

**Response**

He has given food to those who honour Him; He will remember His promises forever. **Response**

**Psalm 27 Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; I need not be afraid of anyone  
The Lord protects me; I need not fear anything! **Response**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord while I am still alive.  
I wait for the Lord with courage, being brave and strong while I wait for Him.  
**Response.**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia "All who are led by The Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God." Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia, I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia . Hope is from and in God because He has poured love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. God renewed us by sending the Holy Spirit to us in the name of Jesus Our Lord. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia, The Holy Spirit will teach you what you need to know and will remind you of everything I have told you. Alleluia.
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. Now the Spirit is the Lord, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. The people were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak of God's word. Alleluia

## **"Prayers of the Faithful/Intercession"**

In the "Prayers of the Faithful/Intercession" we are invited to pray for the concerns of the Church and the world.

The recommended order of the Prayers is ;

1. For the needs of the Church
2. For the world
3. For those in need
4. For the local community

These prayers are designed to be freely composed, church by church. In some cases the children may like to write them themselves. It is permitted to include more than one prayer under each recommended heading. Possible responses are listed on Page 8.

### **For the needs of the church:**

- Lord, we ask that you bless all who try to keep faith in You alive throughout the world. We pray especially for the clergy everywhere.
- Lord, today we ask you to give strength and courage to all who work in and with Your church to teach us of Your unending love and help.
- We pray today, Lord for all our priests and especially Fr. \_\_\_\_\_, our school chaplain. We ask for a special blessing for our bishop Bishop\_\_\_\_\_ that he may have the faith, hope and courage to continue Your work in our Diocese. We pray also for your guidance and protection for Pope \_\_\_\_\_
- Send Your Spirit O Lord, on our priests and all who are in the religious life. Give them courage and strength in times of difficulty.
- Lord, we pray that the church may be strengthened and helped through Your grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Lord, we pray that we, as part of the church may be of good courage and live good lives. We ask You to help and guide us through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit which we renew here in our Confirmation today.
- Lord, we pray for all who help us to know You better.

- We pray that You bless and help Your Church.
- Father, we pray for all who follow a vocation to work for you. We pray that You may instil the desire for religious life in some men and women in our Diocese.

### **For the World**

- We ask You, Father to bless this world in which we live. Keep us safe and help us all through difficult times.
- Father, sometimes the busyness of the world around us can distract us from You. May we always remember to Thank You for our many blessings.
- Lord, we all know how our beautiful world has been affected by climate changes. Help us to realise that each one of us can, in the words of Pope Francis, care for our common home.
- Lord, bless all the children in the world wherever they live. We pray that children everywhere might know the joy of Your love for them.
- Lord, today we come to You in prayer knowing that You love and care for the world You created. May we always do our best to help to care for it.
- Father, You have given us so much. Help us to be thankful.
- Loving Father, please look after us and Your world.
- We pray Lord for ourselves and for children everywhere.
- Dear Father, we pray that the leaders of our governments are guided in all their decisions by what is right.
- Lord, please bless this wonderful world.

### **For those in Need**

- Dear Lord, we ask you to look after those in need all over the world. May we who have plenty be generous.
- Father, help us to appreciate all that we have. We pray for all the children throughout the world who are hungry and living in poverty.
- Today Father, we pray for children who might be lonely or frightened. Give them Your comfort.
- Father, help us to love and care for each other as You love and care for us.
- We pray to you Father for children everywhere. Open our hearts to know that You can help us to be the best we can be -

- in times of plenty and in times of need.

- We pray for all who are in pain or living with grief. Give them Your comfort Lord.

### **For those in Need**

- Lord we pray for anyone who is upset or feels sad with life. Let them experience the Joy of knowing You.
- Father we pray for our leaders that they may use their skills to benefit all in our society, especially those in need.
- Lord, we pray for anyone who has lost hope. Give them Your peace.
- Dear Father, help all who are in need.
- Father, let us pray today for those who have lost their faith. May they open their ears and hearts to hear of Your love for them.
- We pray for any who doubt You. May we, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit which we renew today, help them to believe.
- Lord, we pray for any who may feel left out or unimportant. May they realise that they are valued in their church family and that You love and care for them.
- Lord we pray for people around the world who suffer for their Faith. Give them strength to keep going. Help us to appreciate the gift of our Faith.
- Lord, there are children all over the world living in hunger, poverty and fear. May we not forget them in our prayers.
- Lord, we pray for any who are facing a difficult decision. Help them to know what is right.
- Father we pray today for all who find it difficult to be forgiven if they have not always shown love. Help them to know that You not only fully forgive us, but also that You forget our failings.
- Lord, help anyone who finds it difficult to forgive to know that forgiveness lets us have peace in our hearts.
- Father, in times of weakness or sadness teach us that in You we can always find strength.
- We ask You Father to comfort all who are sick or who are ill in hospital.
- Lord, We pray for all who are bereaved. Please comfort them in their time of need.
- We pray today Father for any who are worried about anything that You might give them guidance and peace.
- Lord, make us gentle and helpful towards all those we meet today,

especially those who might not be feeling well or happy. May we see their needs and make their day better with our kindness.

### **For those in Need**

- Father, help us to see that everyone in our family, everyone in our class, everyone in the world has different needs. We pray that we may use the Gifts of the Spirit to help us to be understanding and kind.
- We pray today Father for all who find it difficult to talk to You. We all need someone to listen to us and You are always there.
- Lord, when we or anyone we know and love is feeling sad or in need of comfort remind them and us to turn to You.
- Father, give courage and strength to anyone who is suffering in any way. Help them to see that they are not alone.
- Father help us to know that we need You.

### **For our Community**

- As we gather here today we ask You to bless our families, our friends, our school community, our neighbours and our local community.
- We thank you for our parents and families and ask You to help them as they teach us about You.
- We ask You to bless all our teachers and everyone who helped to prepare us for our Confirmation.
- We pray for our relatives and friends who have died. May they rest in the peace of Your love.
- We pray for anyone in our community who might be suffering in any way. Give them Your strength and comfort.
- Help us to love and care for everyone and everything in our school and wider community.
- We pray for Your blessing on all health care staff and frontline workers. Please keep them safe.
- We pray for the doctors and nurses who care so well for us and for our loved ones.
- Lord, we pray for good health for all in our community.
- Father, we come to You to ask You to bless all members of our community

and to give them the courage and strength they need to help us to grow up to be adults who live good lives.

### **For our Community**

- Lord, bless our teachers and all who work to make our schools safe and happy places for us.
- Lord, as we prepare to leave Primary School we ask for Your help and blessings so that we may be true to ourselves as we try to find our way in Secondary school.
- We ask for Your guidance that we may have the strength of our faith and belief in ourselves to do what is right.
- We pray today for everyone who works in our community to make sure that we have safe, happy and fulfilled lives.
- We ask You especially today to bless our parents and Grandparents and all who keep us safe and well.
- Bless all who have taught us about You and who have offered to us the gift of Faith . We pray that we may have the courage to carry it on as we become adults.
- May we Father, grow up to be good members of our local community.
- Bless all who have helped us to be here today.
- Father, help us to be kind, helpful and obliging at home, in school and in our local community.
- May we use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit wisely and may we try our best to live as You want us to.
- We ask You Father in Heaven to welcome those who have died into Your eternal rest.

## END of ACADEMIC YEAR / GRADUATION

**READINGS:** If proclaiming two readings chose one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. If only one reading is being used it is usually chosen from the New Testament. The Psalm is read between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading or after the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

At the end of each Reading **Reader: The Word of the Lord**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Ecclesiastes 6:** A faithful friend is a wonderful joy to know. Anyone who has found a faithful friend has indeed found a treasure. Nothing compares to a faithful friend, and friendship is invaluable. A faithful friend is the medicine of life; and they that love the Lord shall find one.

**Colossians 3:** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as friends of Jesus you were called to peace. And be thankful.

**2 Corinthians 4:** All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

**2 Corinthians 9:** Thanks be to God for his indescribable gifts!

**1 James 1:** You can think of troubles with some joy, because you know that when your faith is tested you can develop perseverance. Perseverance will strengthen your personality and you will grow to be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

**Philippeans 4:** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, in prayer and asking, , present your requests to God with gratitude in your hearts. The peace of God, which is too amazing for our understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**1 Thessalonians 5:** Rejoice always, Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 10:** So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.



**James 1:17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from our Father in heaven, who does not change like moving shadows do.

**Colossians 2:** So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him.

**Hebrews 12:** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God with respect and awe

### Responsorial PSALMS:

**Psalm 40:** *Response: I waited for the Lord, he turned to me and heard me*

I waited patiently for the Lord, He turned and He heard my prayer *Response*

He lifted me up from danger and set my feet firmly on a rock. *Response*

Many O Lord, are the things You have done for me. No one can actually count their blessings - they are too many. *Response*

**Psalm 103** *Response: O bless the Lord, my soul!*

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and may all of me bless His holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, let me not forget how He looks after me. *Response*

He forgives all my mistakes, He heals all my illness.

He rescues me from difficulty, He crowns me with kindness and compassion.

*Response*

**Psalm 111** *Response: The Lord will remember His promises for ever.*

I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart when I am with people who love God. Great are the works of the Lord. *Response*

He has become famous for His wondrous deeds; kind and merciful is the Lord.

*Response*

He has given food to those who honour Him; He will remember His promises forever. *Response*

**Psalm 27 Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation; I need not be afraid of anyone  
The Lord protects me; I need not fear anything! **Response**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord while I am still alive.  
I wait for the Lord with courage, being brave and strong while I wait for Him.  
**Response.**

**Psalm 104: Response: Bless the Lord my Soul**

You make the grass to grow for our livestock and plants for us to harvest.

**Response**

Lord, how wonderful are Your works. In Your wisdom You have made them.  
**Response**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever. **Response**

**Psalm 133: Response How good it is when we live in peace and unity together**

How good it is when we live together in harmony. **Response**

Living in peace with one another is like the most precious gift. **Response**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia "All who are led by The Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God." Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia, I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia . Hope is from and in God because He has poured love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia, Create in me a new heart O Lord. Alleluia
- ❖ Alleluia, Alleluia. Jesus said "let the children come to me because it is to such as them that My Kingdom belongs". Alleluia

## "Prayers of the Faithful/Intercessions"

Reader: } See page 8  
All: }

[1] Father, as we prepare to finish this school year we pray for all who teach us about You and about Your wonderful love for us. We pray especially for Bishop ....., our priests, our teachers and our families,.

[2] For those of us who have received the sacraments during this year and for all who have been renewed with the Gifts and Fruits Holy Spirit, we ask that you help us to use these to become the best we can be.

[3] Father, May we always remain faithful to You, to our families and to all that is important in our lives. Give us the courage we need and the right judgement to live well.

[4] We ask that You keep us and our families safe and well during the Summer season.

[5] A Thiarna, We are lucky to live in a society that offers us an education. We pray for children everywhere who are less fortunate than us.

[6] Dear Father, may we maintain the friendships that we have made in school. Help us to realise the value of having and being a good friend.

*[The children in 6<sup>th</sup> class may like to write their own prayers for this, their final Liturgical celebration in Primary school. See also Prayers of the Faithful in the Confirmation section Pages 57 - 61]*

# Notes

# Notes

# Notes

# Notes



DUBLIN

LEICHESTIN

OSSORY

WATERFORD

ANNACURRAGH

Crossbridge

KILLAVENEY

Ballyfad

Shillelagh

Tomacork

KILANIERIN

CARNEW

Monaseed

Tarahill

Askamore

CRAANFORD

GOREY

BUNCLODY

KILRUSH

Ballyduff

CAMOLIN

Ballyoughter

THE RIVERCHAPEL

Kilmyshall

Ballycanew

Castledockrell

FERNS

Clogue

BALLINDAGGIN

BooLavogue

Monamolín

BALLYGARRETT

Kiltealy

MARSHALSTOWN

MONAGEER

OULART

KILMUCKRIDGE

Caim

ENNISCORTHY

Ballaghkeene

RATHNURE

Courtnacuddy

ST AIDAN'S

ST SENAN'S

Glenbrien

BLACKWATER

Templeudigan

CLOUGHBAWN

DAVIDSTOWN

BREE

OILGATE

Ballymurn

Screen

Rathgarogue

Poulpeasty

Ballyhoge

Galbally

ADAMSTOWN

GLYNN

CROSSABEG

CASTLEBRIDGE

Curracloe

NEW ROSS

CUSHINSTOWN

Raheen

Ballykelly

Terrerath

NEWBAWN

Cullenstown

Carroreigh

Barntown

CLONARD

WEXFORD

Rosslare Strand

HORESWOOD

Gusserane

CLONGEEN

TAGHMON

Trinity

PIERCESTOWN

Murrinstown

BALLYCULLANE

Ballymitty

Cleristown

RAMSGRANGE

St Leonard's

Grantstown

RATHANGAN

Mulhankin

Mayglass

BALLYMORE

TAGOAT

KILRANE & ST PATRICK'S

DUNCANNON

BANNOW

Duncormack

Tomhaggard

KILMORE

Tacumshane

OUR LADY'S ISLAND

Poulfur

Kilmore Quay

TEMPLETOWN