**Graduation ceremony 2023**

**Introduction:**

To reflect on some of the characteristics of the class of 2023 I will guide us in a brief overview of our year group while the students bring up some symbols of our time spent here in (Name of School).

**Symbols of the Class of 2023**

**(student)** is bringing up a smiley face pillow or something similar – this represents the banter and happiness we have had together as a year group since we began our journey … the happiness we feel tonight when we end our journey and the happiness we will feel when we recall our fond memories of school.

**(student)** brings up a timetable and school jumper. These depict the routine we have followed while attending (Name of School) and the image that holds the school moto

**(student)** brings up a hurley and basketball. These represent the sporting achievements from the past six years our year has contributed to (Name of School), especially in the areas of Hurling, Football, Basketball, volleyball, etc

The musical hoody presented by **(student)** represents our year group’s participation in our musical.

**(student)** brings up a hamper filled with the names of the charities our year has proudly supported throughout our six years in (name of school)

**(student)** is bringing up a guitar, violin, flute etc. This represents the musical achievements in our year group from participating in Musicals to performing in (Name of Talent Show) and the end of year celebrations.

Art has been a huge part of our time here. This is evident by the creativity seen in the many different projects completed by our year group throughout the six years. **(student)** brings a piece to represent one of these many pieces.

A bag of pick and mix is brought forward by **(student)** to represent the diversity in our year group and as an example of the tolerance and acceptance we have found in our school.

**(student)** is bringing up a rock. This represents the support we show one another as a year group - in friendships, in work and in community with one another.

Finally, some dream catchers are brought forward by **(student)** and (**student)** These represent the dreams we have shared and achieved throughout our years in (Name of School) and the dreams we hope to achieve when we leave. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

**Celebrant:** In the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**All: Amen.**

Celebrant: May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Penitential Rite**

For times when we get carried away and are unfair to people

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

For times when we let anger get the better of us

Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

For times when we failed to respect ourselves and others around us

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

**Opening Prayer**

Grant us, Lord our God,  
that we may honour you with all our mind,  
and love everyone in truth of heart.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

AN CHÉAD LÉACHT: *léamh ag Ainm agus Ainm*

Sliocht as Leabhair Cóheilit

Tá a ionú féin ag gach uile ní agus tá a thráth ann don uile ghnó faoin spear.

Tráth breithe, tráth báis,

Tráth curtha sil, tráth bainte fómhair,

Tráth maraithe, tráth leighis,

Tráth leagtha, tráth tógála,

Tráth goil, tráth gáire,

Tráth caointe, tráth rince,

Tráth scaipthe cloch, tráth bailithe cloch,

Tráth beirthe barróg, tráth séanta barróg,

Tráth cuardaigh, tráth cailte,

Tráth coimeádta, tráth caite,

Tráth stóicthe, tráth fuála,

Tráth tosta, tráth cainte,

Tráth grá, tráth fuatha,

Tráth cogaidh, tráth síochána.

Cén tairbhe a bhaineann duine as an dúthracht a chaitheann sé lena chuid oibre? Chonaic mé an saothar a thug Dia don chine daonna le déanamh. Gach uile ní a dhéannann Dia, oireann sé dá thráth féin; ach bíoch gur chuir sé ar chumas an duine machnamh a dhéannamh ar imeacht an ama ina iomláine, ní féidir leis an duine an obair a dhéannan Dia ó thus go deireadh a thuiscint.

Is eol dom nach bhfuil aon ní ann is fearr do dhuine ná gairdeas a dhéanamh agus saol sona sásta a chaitheamh fad is beo dó. Go deimhin, má éiríonn le duine ithe agus ól a dhéanamh agus aoibhneas a bhaint as a chuid saothair go léir, is tabhartas ó Dhia é.”

Sin é briathar an Tiarna.

**Buiochas le Dia**

**A reading from the book of the Ecclesiastes**

Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.

the time for birth and the time for death,

the time for planting and the time for pulling up,

the time for tearing down and the time for building.

He sets the time for sorrow and the time for joy,

the time for mourning and the time for dancing,

the time for making love and the time for not making love,

He sets the time for finding and the time for losing,

the time for saving and the time for throwing away,

the time for tearing and the time for mending,

the time for silence and the time for talk.

the time for war and the time for peace.

What do we gain from all our work? I know the heavy burdens that God has laid on us.

God has set the right time for everything. God has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what God does. So I realised that all we can do is to be happy and do the best we can while we are still alive. All of us should eat and drink and enjoy what we have worked for. It is God’s gift.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** of choice

**Second Reading:**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.**

I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell.

I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains – but if I have no love, this does me no good.

“Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth.

Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. **The word of the Lord Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL**

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John*

**Glory to you Lord.**

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Or option 2

**GOSPEL**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lamp stand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

We pray for the class of 2023 that they may always find the motivation to achieve their dreams and to reach their full potential.

Lord hear us

**Lord graciously hear us.**

*Student Name*

We pray for our families and loved ones who have helped us throughout our journey. May we carry on the love and support they have given us.

Lord hear us

**Lord graciously hear us.**

*Student Name*

We pray for those who were once part of our year group: those who began in first year with us, those who came from different parts of the world and joined us, we remember them tonight and pray that they are happy and have good health.

Lord hear us,

**Lord graciously hear us.**

*Student name*

We pray for our parents, we thank them for their help and support that they have given us throughout our time at (Name of School). May they continue to guide us as we finish school and begin the next stage of our journey.

Lord hear us

**Lord graciously hear us.**

*Student name*

We pray for and thank God for the staff of Name of School, for helping us to progress through the six years. May they have good health to continue their work and may they have support from everyone to do so.

Lord hear us

**Lord graciously hear us.**

**Offertory Procession**

***The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar***

***by two people***

**Offertory instrumental: or Sung**

**P.** Pray, brothers and sisters that our sacrifices may be

acceptable to God the almighty father.

**All. May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, for the**

**praise and glory of God’s name, for our good and the good**

**of all his Holy Church.**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

**P.** The Lord be with you.

**All. And with your Spirit**

**P.** Lift up your hearts.

**All. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P.** Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**All. It is right and just.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer continues ……**

COMMUNION RITE

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed by thy name;**

**thy kingdom come, thy will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles, Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And with your spirit.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us,**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.   
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.  
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,   
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Rite continues …….**

**Post Communion Reflection:**

May I become at all times, both now and forever

A protector for those without protection

A guide for those who have lost their way

A ship for those with oceans to cross

A bridge for those with rivers to cross

A sanctuary for those in danger

A lamp for those without light

A place of refuge for those who lack shelter

And a servant to all in need.

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Don’t walk in front of me…

I may not follow;

Don’t walk behind me…

I may not lead;

Walk beside me

And just be my friend. Albert Camus

**The Smaller Beatitudes**

**Blessed** are you who can laugh at yourselves: you will have no end of fun

**Blessed** are you who can tell a mountain from a molehill: you will be saved a lot of bother.

**Blessed** are you who know how to relax without looking for excuses: you are on the way to becoming wise.

**Blessed** are you who know when to be quiet and listen: you will learn a lot of new things.

**Blessed** are you who are sane enough not to take yourselves too seriously and face serious things calmly: you will go far in life.

**Blessed** are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown: you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

**Blessed** are you who think before acting and pray before thinking: you will avoid many blunders.

Above all: blessed are you who recognise the Lord in all whom you meet: the light of truth shines in your life for you have found true wisdom. (*Author unknown*)

**Blessing:**

**May You Always Have an Angel by Your Side**

May you always have an angel by your side  Watching out for you in all the things you do  Reminding you to keep believing in brighter days  Finding ways for your wishes and dreams to come true  Giving you hope that is as certain as the sun  Giving you the strength of serenity as your guide  May you always have love and comfort and courage

And may you always have an angel by your side Someone there to catch you if you fall  Encouraging your dreams  Inspiring your happiness Holding your hand and helping you through it all  In all of our days, our lives are always changing Tears come along as well as smiles  Along the roads you travel, may the miles be a thousand times more lovely than lonely  May they give you gifts that never, ever end: someone wonderful to love and a dear friend in whom you can confide  May you have rainbows after every storm May you have hopes to keep you warm

And may you always have an angel by your side