

FOOD

FORTY-FIVE MASSES FOR

FOR THE

PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

JOURNEY

WRITTEN BY

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FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

45 MASSES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

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For the children and staff
of St Mary the Virgin
(Church in Wales) Primary School,
in thanksgiving

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Preface

Whenever I am asked a question of faith by children I need to give even more thought about how to answer. All of our usual ways of dressing up an answer in flowery phrases and tricky terminology must be discarded. The question needs to be answered simply and directly. This is no time for clever catchphrases or for trying to impress.

If, like me, you have been in this situation you may sometimes be surprised by the answer you have given! For, once the very adult way of looking at the world has been temporarily laid aside, the truth of the question concerned is all that remains. It brings to mind those well-worn words of Jesus about becoming like a little child. Unfortunately, we 'grown-ups' have all too easily discarded this way of seeing and being. We have much to learn from those who are learning!

Celebrating the Eucharist and providing Prayers and Propers in a child friendly way by no means diminishes anything but, even for adults, can and does enhance them. Anyone who is familiar with Children's Literature will know how the best of that genre can be as engaging and meaningful and moving for adults to read as it is for children. The Eucharist Celebrations provided in this book are coloured by this experience.

The Eucharist lies at the heart of the Christian Life. If we want our children to grow up experiencing and valuing this treasure of our faith, then we need to help them to do just that. Hopefully, this collection of forty-five celebrations will be a useful resource to teachers, priests and catechists in their high calling to nurture the young in their care.

I am so grateful to those many children and teachers who have allowed these and other resources to be used in their times of worship, whether it be in school or in the parish. There have been times when I have been rather confused about who is the teacher and who is the learner, for we have much to offer one another. Each of us has much to teach...and much to learn!

Fr Dean Atkins
August 2021

Introduction

Each Celebration contains:

A brief note for Teachers and Celebrants
An Introduction to the Eucharist*
Symbols*
Introduction to the Penitential Rite
Sentences for the Penitential Rite
Opening Prayer (Collect)
Reading*
Responsorial Psalm*
Gospel Acclamation*
Prayer of the Faithful*
Presentation of Gifts*
Prayer over the Gifts
Preface for the Eucharistic Prayer
Introduction the Lord's Prayer
Post Communion Prayer
Sending Out

The items marked * are intended, where possible and appropriate, for the participation of the children.

Music

Although we have not suggested any particular items of music, the addition of music to the Eucharist, whether as hymns and songs or liturgical settings, enriches the liturgy and enables even more participation by all present.

Introduction to the Eucharist

Each of the outlines provided here have a particular theme or focus of celebration and it's important that the message is clear from the outset. The Introductions provided are intended to be read by one of the children. You may want to introduce the child by saying, '*N. is going to tell us what today's celebration is all about.*' *There is also the option of using the presentation of symbols either as an accompaniment to the Introduction or instead of it.*

Readings

The First Reading, Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and Gospel aim to offer readings that are, in some way, child friendly and therefore accessible to all ages of Primary School children. The translation of readings do not in any way claim to be an authoritative one but, hopefully, they remain as faithful as possible to the original translation whilst being simple enough for young children to understand. There are, however, child friendly translations of the Bible available which have been authorised by the various churches. If anything, the interpretations offered here have been an exercise in attempting to speak clearly to children, even when the original text is somewhat deep and involved!

The Prayer of the Faithful

The response for the Prayer of the Faithful ('Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer') may, if appropriate and possible, be replaced with a different response reflecting the theme of the particular celebration. There is also, of course, the opportunity for children to write their own Intercessions.

Presentation of Gifts

The gifts may be presented before a suitable hymn or song is sung along with the accompanying words. Alternatively, they may be presented during the hymn itself, with no accompanying words.

Preface for the Eucharistic Prayer

A number of Prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayer are offered in the Appendix as it sometimes seems incongruous to use some of the seasonal prefaces which are available with the Children's Eucharistic Prayers of various Liturgical Rites. Like everything else in this book they may be used at your discretion and according to your circumstances and do not claim to carry any authority as an accepted liturgical text.

Sending Out

At the end of the Eucharist, we are sent out to serve God in the world. We take what we have heard and seen and received into the rest of our day and the rest of our lives. One way of making this part of the rite more colourful and relevant to the particular celebration of the day is to leave the children with a summarising thought or reminder of what we have been called to do or to give them a small task in light of the celebration. It's also good teaching practice to remind learners what they have learned. The thought within each outline is, of course, simply a suggestion. It may be more appropriate to give a thought and reminder from the particular message of your homily.

Advent Light

The bright lights of Christmas often flood out the Advent season and it's sometimes rather difficult for many people to glimpse the beauty of Advent. This celebration uses the Advent themes of waiting and preparation, seeking out the warmth of Jesus' love which brightens the darkness of our world. There is excitement in the air at this time of year and schools are busy and bustling with Christmas preparations and celebrations.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

It's dark and cold outside. Winter time is here and everyone wants to be snug and warm. It's Advent time in the church. We wait for the light of Jesus to dawn. The light of Jesus brings us the warmth of God's love.

Symbols*

We bring a candle.
We want the light of Jesus to shine brightly in the world.

We bring a Christmas decoration.
We are excited about celebrating the birth of Jesus.

We bring a holly branch (*or leaf*).
We love the new life Jesus brings.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, as we prepare for Christmas,
let's pray that the light of Jesus will shine everywhere,
especially in our own lives.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, your love softens our hearts.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your love warms our lives.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your love brightens the darkness.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birthday,
help us to be loving and kind
so that his light will shine in our lives
and bring warmth to others.

We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Isaiah 45:6ff)

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.

God says this: ‘Without me there is nothing. I am the Lord. No one compares to me. I make light and dark. I know everything that happens. I do all things. Let my power fall from the sky like rain, let it fall from the clouds like dew. Let the earth break open for my gift of life to grow like a flower. Let freedom bud. I will create all this. I am God. I created the heavens. I made the earth a place to be lived in. There is no other god beside me. Everyone in the world, turn to me and I will help you. There is no other god except me.’
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 84)

Response: **Let God’s power rain on us.**

I will listen to God because he speaks words of peace.
His help is very near. His glory will live in our land. **R.**

In God we find love and faith, truth and fairness.
They will spring up from below and fall from above. **R.**

The Lord will help us to grow.
Our earth will bring much fruit. **R**

•
Truth will march before him.
Peace shall follow where he has walked. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said, ‘You will know who I am
by the things that I do.’
Alleluia!

Gospel (John 5:33-36)

Jesus said to them, ‘You sent people to John to find out who he was. He spoke the truth. John was like a lamp shining bright. For a little while you loved the light he gave. But my message is greater than John’s. You will know who I am by the things that I do, the things the Father has sent me to do.’

Invitation to Prayer of the Faithful

Sometimes the world seems dark and scary. God has sent Jesus into the world to bring light and peace. So, let’s pray together that the light of Jesus will shine in the world.

Petitions for Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.

May we help to light up the world with the light of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for anyone who feels lonely.
Help us to care for each other.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for places that have been made dark by war.
Let the peace of Jesus come to the world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our friends.
May we help each other to welcome Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the poor.
May they be treated with kindness and love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for ourselves.
May people know we are friends of Jesus by the things we do.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and know that God loves and cares for us very much.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
during the winter, the days are short and the nights are long.
Help us to look forward to
the light of Jesus shining bright at Christmas.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want everyone to be welcome at the table of Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
through these gifts we give ourselves to you.
We want to welcome Jesus into our lives.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

As we wait for God's love to rule on earth, let us pray together.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
as we celebrate Advent
and look forward to Christmas with joy and happiness,
help us to welcome Jesus
and to bring the warmth of his light to others.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Look for ways in which you can bring the warmth of Jesus' light to others today.

Christmas

The voices of angels fill the sky as the birth of Jesus is announced. Poor shepherds – at first terrified, are filled with joy and peace. The coming of Jesus into the world brings light and happiness.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

We are excited because its Christmas. Christmas makes us happy because Jesus is born in Bethlehem. We want his love to shine in our lives.

Symbols*

We bring a candle.
The light of Jesus shines in the world.

We bring a Christmas Carol.
The song of the angels fills the world.

We bring a *bible*.
The good news of Jesus is for everyone.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, let's pray that we may love the light of Jesus which shines in the world.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, your birth makes us happy.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your birth brings us peace.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your birth gives us hope.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
the angels sing
and poor shepherds' hearts are filled with joy
for Jesus is born in Bethlehem.
Help us to welcome him into our lives.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Titus 3:4-7)

This is a reading from St Paul's Letter to Titus.

God is kind and loving. He has come into the world: not because we have done anything great or good but because he is kind and understanding. In the waters of Baptism he has given us a new start. He has poured out the power of the Holy Spirit which makes us new. He has filled us with grace. Now we can hope to live for ever with God. You must trust what I say.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 95:1-3.11-13 R. Lk 2:11)

Response: **A saviour has been born; he is Christ the Lord.**

Sing a new song to God.
Everyone on earth sing to God.
Tell others about how he helps us.
Tell people everywhere about his great works. **R.**

May heaven and earth be happy and glad.
May the sea and everything in it give praise.
May the land and everything on it be happy. **R.**

The trees of the forest shout with joy.
God comes to rule the earth with fairness and truth. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
I bring news of great joy:
a Saviour has been born for us,
Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 2:1-14)

The Emperor commanded that everyone should go to their home town so they could be counted. Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth and travelled to the town of David called Bethlehem to register with Mary who was about to give birth. While they were there the time came for her child to be born. She gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a feeding trough because there was no room in the living space. Nearby, in the countryside, were shepherds watching their sheep during the night. God's angel came to them. God's light and power shone round them. They were terrified. But the angel said, 'Don't be afraid. I have great news to make you happy. The whole world will share in this good news too. Today, in the town of David, a Saviour has been born. He is Christ the Lord. You will know him because he is wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding trough. Suddenly, there were choirs of angels singing out: 'Glory to God and peace to everyone!'

Invitation to Prayer of the Faithful

The birth of Jesus brings light to the world.
Let us pray for the world now, that all people may know his light.

Petitions for Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May we help to light up the world with the light of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are waiting for good news.
May God give them strength.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are lonely at Christmas.
May the light of Jesus brighten their lives.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for children.
May they know the love of Jesus at Christmas.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray people who are angry or sad.
May they learn to trust God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for ourselves.
May the light of Jesus shine in our lives.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and know that Jesus is with us.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
thank you for sending Jesus into the world.
He fills our lives with light.
We make our prayer in his name,
for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presentation of Bread and Wine*

We bring bread and wine.
The gift of Jesus makes us strong and loving.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
we bring these gifts
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
Help us to be generous and kind
ant to welcome Jesus into our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us
that we may live as he has taught:

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we are as happy as the angels in heaven
for Jesus has come to live among us,
to bring your light to the world.
May the gifts we have received at his table
help us to share his light with others.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Take the light of Jesus to everyone you meet.

Epiphany

The Epiphany is the fulfilment of our Christmas Celebrations when Jesus is revealed to the whole world. It is the most ancient Christmas Feast, and is filled with light and joy.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we celebrate the time when the Wise Men came to see Jesus. They were led by a shining star. We pray that the light of Jesus may shine everywhere, for all people.

Symbols*

We bring gold.

We come to worship Jesus the King.

We bring incense.

Our prayers rise like incense.

We bring a candle.

The light of Jesus shines in the world.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, let's pray that the bright light of Jesus will shine in our lives.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you are the light of all people.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of all nations.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

your light is strong,

your light is near.

Guide us to your light,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Isaiah 60:1-6)

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Jerusalem, stand up, shine out! Your light has come.

It may still be night in the world and there may be darkness over everyone
but, above you, God is rising with glory.
His glory can be seen, high above you.
All countries come to your light.
Kings will come to see your light rise like the sun.
Look around you. Everyone is coming forward now:
your sons are coming from far away
your daughters are carried.
Your heart will swell with love.
All the riches of the sea flow to you.
The riches of all nations come to you.
They will come bringing gold and incense and singing praises to God.

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 71:1-2.7-8.10-13 R. v 11)

Response: **Everyone will worship you, Lord.**

Help the king to rule the people fairly,
so that the poor may have life. **R.**

He will rule from sea to sea,
to the end of the world. **R.**

Kings will bring him gifts and bow before him.
All people will serve him. **R.**

He will help the poor and those in need.
He will help the weak and rescue them from death. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
We saw his star rising.
We have come to worship him.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose and have come to worship him. When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and the whole of Jerusalem too. He called the chief priests and scribes of the people. He asked them where the Messiah[†] was to be born. They said, 'In Bethlehem of Judea.' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men[‡] and asked them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, 'Go and search for the child. When you have found him, tell me where he is so that I may also go and worship.' They set out, and ahead of them went the star they had seen rise. It stopped over the place where the child was. They were overcome with joy. They entered the house, and saw the child, knelt down and worshipped. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. They opened their treasure-chests, and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by a different road.

Invitation to Prayer of the Faithful

As we gather to worship Jesus, let's pray in his name for all the world.

Petitions for Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May we help to light up the world with the light of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are waiting for good news.
May God give them strength.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are lonely at Christmas.
May the light of Jesus brighten their lives.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for children.
May they know the love of Jesus at Christmas.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray people who are angry or sad.
May they learn to trust God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for ourselves.
May the light of Jesus shine in our lives.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and know that Jesus is with us.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
thank you for sending Jesus into the world.
He fills our lives with light.
We make our prayer in his name,
for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presentation of Bread and Wine*

We bring bread and wine.
The gift of Jesus makes us strong and loving.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
we bring these gifts
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
Help us to be generous and kind
ant to welcome Jesus into our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us
that we may live as he has taught:

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we are as happy as the angels in heaven
for Jesus has come to live among us,
to bring your light to the world.
May the gifts we have received at his table
help us to share his light with others.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Take the light of Jesus to everyone you meet.

The Baptism of the Lord

The Baptism of Jesus helps us to understand who Jesus is: the only Son of the Father who has come into the world, to share our life and show us how to live. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord takes place on the first Sunday after Epiphany and marks the beginning of Ordinary Time although it forms part of the Epiphany (or manifestation) of Jesus to the world. This Eucharist can, of course, be celebrated at any time.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we remember how Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist. Today we remember that Jesus has come into the world. God our Father wants us to listen to Jesus and to live like him.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, when we are baptised we are refreshed by God's love and begin a new life. So, let's turn away from everything that spoils our friendship with God so that we may live as his children.

Symbols*

We bring a jug of water.
God fills us with his love.

We bring a Bible.
God wants us to listen to Jesus.

We bring a plant.
We want to grow strong in our faith.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you are the Son of God.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are our brother.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are our friend.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
when Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan,
you showed us that he was your Son.
Help us to live just as he has shown us.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Isaiah 55:1-3)

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Everyone who is thirsty: come to the water!

Come, even if you don't have money!

Buy corn without money. Come and eat.

Wine and milk will cost you nothing.

Why do you want to spend your money on things that don't feed you?

Why waste the money you earned for something that doesn't fill you up?

Listen to me and I will give you good things to eat and lovely food to enjoy.

Listen now. Come to me, and you will live for ever.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Isaiah 12:2-6)

Response: **God will help us and make us happy.**

God is my help.

I trust in him, I am not afraid. **R.**

God is my strength.

His help is like a deep well. **R.**

God is my song.

I will tell everyone what he has done. **R.**

God is great.

I will sing to him. **R.**

God is with you.

Sing and shout for joy. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!

'Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.'

Alleluia!

Gospel (Mark 1:7-11)

John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me but he is more powerful than me. I'm not good enough even to untie his shoes. I have baptised with water. He will baptise with the Holy Spirit.'

Then Jesus came from Nazareth (his home town) and was baptised by John in the River Jordan. As soon as Jesus came up out of the water he saw the sky torn open and the Spirit came down on him like a dove. There was a voice from heaven, 'You are my Son, my loved one. I favour you above all others.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray for all the people in the world
that they may know how much God loves them.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the church.
May all Christians live as Children of God our Father.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our parents and teachers.
We want them to help us to grow up safe and loved.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for places where there is a war.
May the peace of Jesus be good news to everyone.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are hungry and poor.
May they have a fair share of good things.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the children of the world.
May they know the love of God their Father.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still
and think about how God wants us to live.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for sharing your love in Jesus.
We thank you for showing us how to live.
May all for whom we have prayed and everyone in the world
also know your love and care in their lives.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine
God gives us everything we need.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
accept the gifts we bring.
Help us to offer our whole lives to you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

With Jesus we are able to call God 'our Father'
as so we pray together.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we thank you that in this special meal
you have given us the gift of Jesus.
Help us to share his love with others today.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that Jesus is always with you.

Presentation of the Lord

Using the readings from the Feast of Candlemas (The Presentation of the Lord) which is celebrated on February 2, this Eucharist impresses upon us how young and old need each other. Each of us important to one another, no matter how old we are.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we remember that it doesn't matter how old we are. It doesn't matter if we are old or young. Each one of us is important. Jesus teaches us this.

Symbols*

We bring a tablecloth.

We love to be together around God's table.

We bring a baptism candle.

We are members of God's family.

We bring a family photograph.

We need each other.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, Jesus wants us to be his friends. He wants us to be friends with each other.

Let's draw closer to Jesus our friend.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you want us to be friends with God.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us be friends with one another.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to help one another.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

when your Son Jesus became human

he brought people closer together.

Help us to see that we all need each other.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Malachi 3:1-2)

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

God says this: 'I will send someone to you with a message. They will get things ready for me. You are looking for the Lord and he will come suddenly into his special place. The one who brings God's promise is coming. Who will be able to put up a fight on the day he comes? Who will stay standing when he comes? He will make you perfect. He will make you clean. You will be like gold and silver.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Ps 24 (24) 7-8)

Response: **Jesus is the king of glory.**

Gates, look up.

Doors of old, grow higher.

Let the king of glory come in. **R.**

Who is the king of glory?

The Lord, the mighty, the brave.

He is the king of glory. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus brings light to all the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel (Mark 16:15-18)

There was a man called Simeon. He was a good and holy man. The Holy Spirit rested on him and had told him that he would not die until he had seen the Christ. The Spirit led him to the temple, and when Jesus' parents brought in the child Jesus to do everything they had been taught, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God. He said, 'Now, God, I can die in peace, just as you promised me. I have seen the saving help which you have given for all the people throughout the world. He will bring light to people everywhere.' Jesus' father and mother stood there and wondered about the things he said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary. 'This child will bring many people low and raise people up. He will be turned away and your heart will break, and there will no longer be any secrets.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray for all people, young and old.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians help one another to follow Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May everyone work happily together.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all children.
May they be brought up in love and safety.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for older people.
May they teach children the right way to follow.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for young people.
May they treat older people with respect and love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We quietly think about how we need one another.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
hear our prayers for all people:
children and grown -ps,
young and old.
May all of us know your love in our lives.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of Bread and Wine*

We bring bread and win.
We want to become more like Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
receive these gifts, given in love.
May this Eucharist make us holy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

No matter how old we are, we are all God's children
and so we can pray together.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
thank you for gathering us at your table,
a place where all are welcomed
and given what they need.
We ask this through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that each of us is important, no matter how old we are.

Ash Wednesday

Lent: six long weeks of preparation for Easter. It is often a very difficult time for we have to turn away from self and turn to God and our neighbour, being more fervent in prayer, penitence and charity. This Eucharist may be used on Ash Wednesday with the distribution of ashes or adapted for use any time throughout Lent.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we begin the season of Lent. It is a time to get ready to celebrate Easter with great happiness. We ask God to make us strong.

Symbols*

We bring a book of prayers.

We want to pray more.

We bring a collecting (*or: alms*) box.

We want to help other people.

We bring a Bible.

We want to listen to Jesus and learn to do right.

The Penitential Rite is omitted if you are distributing ashes which occurs after the homily. The following is included to accommodate those schools where this does not take place or so that this Liturgy can be adapted for any time during Lent.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, during Lent we try to be more loving and kind.

We try even more to turn away from all that is bad.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, we want to know you better.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we want to follow you better.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we want to love you better.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
as we begin our journey of Lent
help us to be strong,
help us to be kind,

help us to think of others.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2)

This is a reading from the Second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

We speak for Christ. It's as though God was reaching out to others through us. The message is this: be friends with God. It was for us that God made Jesus. He was perfect. He lived among the imperfect, so that we may become the goodness of God. We are God's fellow workers. Remember the help God gives you. He says: 'When the time was right, I listened to you. On the day when you cried out, I came to your help. Now is the right time. This is the day I will help you.'
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14, 17)

Response: **Open my mouth and I will sing to you.**

Dear God, look on me with kindness.
Wash me clean from everything that is bad. **R**

I know what I have done wrong.
I see the things that spoil my life with you. **R.**

Give me a clean heart and a strong spirit
Never let me leave your side.
Never let your Holy Spirit leave me. **R.**

Make me happy with your help.
Help me to be strong. **R.**

Dear God, open my mouth
and I will sing to you. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Praise to you, O Christ!
'Don't have a hard heart.
Listen to God speaking.'
Praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18)

Jesus said, 'If you do good things, don't brag about them to others so that people will notice you. If you do this you will lose your reward from your Father in heaven. When you give money to charity, don't make a song and dance about it. This is what the two-faced people do so that people will look up to them. I tell you now, they have lost their reward. But when you give money to charity, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Your charity must be secret. God your Father sees everything you do in secret and he will reward you.

And when you pray, don't be like the two faced people who love to stand on street corners for

people to see them. I tell you now, they have already had their reward. But when you pray go to your little room, close the door, and pray to your Father in that secret place. God sees everything you do in secret and he will reward you.

When you give up food, don't put on a gloomy face like the two-faced people do. They pull long faces so that others will know they have given up food. I tell you now, they have had their reward. When you give up food for God, refresh and wash your face, so that no one will know what your doing except God. He sees everything you do in secret and he will reward you.

Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

Let us ask God our Father
to bless these ashes.

God our Father,
you want us to live for ever with you.
Listen to our prayer
and bless + all who are marked with these ashes.
Help them to be strong during Lent
that we may come to celebrate Easter with great happiness.
Through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The priest then places the ashes on the heads of each person, and says the following or other appropriate words:

Turn away from all that is bad.
Believe the good news of Jesus.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Today we begin our journey through Lent.
Sometimes, it will be difficult.
Let's pray that God will make us strong and loving.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for the Church.
May Christians be strong during Lent.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we be kind to others during Lent.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the poor.
May they be treated kindly this Lent.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for ourselves.
May we grow closer to Jesus during Lent.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the world.
May all people know the new life of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and talk secretly to God.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
hear our prayers for help.
We want to grow closer to Jesus,
who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine
We want to feed the hungry.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
we bring your our gifts.
May this Eucharist make us
strong for our Lenten journey.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray that we may forgive others
as God forgives us.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
in this Eucharist
you give us food for the journey.
Bring us to the happiness of Easter.
Through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that Jesus is with you throughout Lent.

Lent

Lent is our preparation for the Easter Celebrations. Lent is a time when we 'give up things' in order to express our love for Jesus and so that our fasting helps the poor to feast! We are called to be even more generous both in prayer and helping others.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

During Lent, we try even harder to be helpful and kind, especially to the poor. Today we ask Jesus to help us know what to do.

Symbols*

We bring a blanket.

We want to help the poor.

We bring a key.

We want everyone to have a home.

We bring a toy.

We want to share what we have.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, let us ask God to help us to be kind and loving.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you became poor for us.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you helped the poor.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to follow your example.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

Jesus your Son taught us to be kind and loving.

Help us to be more like Jesus,
by helping those who are poor.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Isaiah 58:3,4,7,8)

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Do you what to know what kind of fasting pleases me? It is this: sharing your food with the hungry, giving a home to the poor, giving clothes to those who don't have clothes, and not turning away your family. Then you will shine brightly like the morning sun. When you cry for help God will answer you. He will say, 'I am here.'

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 72:12-14)

Response: **God helps the poor.**

God rescues people when they call to him.
He loves the poor who have no one to help. **R.**

He helps the people who are weak and small.
He will not let them die. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Praise to you, O Christ!
Jesus said, 'Love one other, just as I have loved you.'
Praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel (Luke 3:10-14)

All the people asked John the Baptist, 'What should we do?' He said, 'If you have two coats, share one with someone who doesn't have one. If you have lots of food share what you have with people who don't have food. Don't take more than you need. Don't be greedy. Don't pick on people. Don't cheat. Be happy with what you have.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

God wants us to be kind to one another,
and to help people who are in need.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May we may help others like Jesus did.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May every one be treated fairly.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people without a home.
May everyone have what they need.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are cold.
May they know God's love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our family.
May our homes be full of love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and ask God to show us how he wants us to help the poor.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
listen to the prayer we make in Jesus' name.
Help us to be kind and loving.
Through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to share our food with the hungry.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
we bring gifts
because you want us to share what you have given us.
May this Eucharist help us to be more like Jesus,
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to our Father in heaven
that everyone may have their daily bread.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus,
in this special meal
you share yourself with us.
Help us to share what we have with others,
for you are Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember to be kind, especially to people who are poor.

Holy Week

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and reaches its high point in the celebrations of the Holy Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. This Eucharist provides a celebration for the beginning of Holy Week.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

This is a really special week. This is Holy Week. This is the week that Jesus died and rose again.

Symbols*

We bring a cloth.

At this table, we sit with Jesus as his friends.

We bring a cross.

At this table, we know how much Jesus loves us.

We bring a towel.

At this table, Jesus shows us how to help others.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, Jesus loved us so much that he was willing to die for us. Let's turn to him with love.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you love the world.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you love the church.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you love us.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

in your plan to help us

Jesus went to the cross.

May we come to share in his life

for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Isaiah 3:8-14)

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.

God comes to help me.

The name calling will not hurt me.
I will face up to them.
I will not be afraid.
God is coming to my help.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 69:30, 32, 33)

Response: **God, answer my prayer for you love me.**

I will praise God with a song.
I will thank him and bless him. **R.**

The poor will be glad.
The hearts of good people will be full of love. **R.**

God listens to people in need.
He does not turn us away. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Praise to you, O Christ!
God loved the world so much
that he sent his only Son.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel (Matthew 26:20-26)

When it was evening, Jesus was sat at table with his friends. While they were eating, he said, 'One of you will hand me over to my enemies.' Everyone was upset. Each of them asked him, 'Is it me?' He answered, 'Someone who has shared in this meal with me will hand me over to my enemies. I am going to my fate, just as the bible said, but how awful for the one who hands me over. It would have been better if that man had never been born.' Judas asked, 'Teacher, it's not me, surely?' 'They are your words,' said Jesus, 'not mine.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Jesus is strong and loving.
Let us pray that all people may know the power of his love.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for the Church.
May we may help others like Jesus did.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we know God's help.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are treated unfairly.

May God's love rule the world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who care for others.
May they know God's love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are unwell.
May they know that Jesus is with them.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still and think about how much Jesus loves us.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
this is a special week.
This is Holy Week.
Help us to know how much Jesus loves us,
for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
At this table, Jesus gives himself to us.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
this meal is a feast of love.
We love you but only because
you have loved us first.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to our Father in heaven
that he will show us the way.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus,
in this special meal
we celebrate your death
and receive your life.
for you are Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that Jesus loves you so much that he was willing to die for you.

Ascension of the Lord

Today, we celebrate Christ's ascension to his glory in heaven. Our hope as Christians is that where he has gone before us, we will follow to live for ever in the Kingdom of the Father.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Jesus wants us to follow him. He leads us through life. He leads us to heaven.

Symbols*

We bring a *(musical instrument)*.

We want to worship God with all our heart.

We bring a crown.

We remember that Jesus is King.

We bring a bible.

We want to tell others about Jesus.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, Jesus wants us to know that he is always with us.
So, let's try to follow him day by day.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you set our sights on heaven.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are close to us always.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to live with you for ever.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
you have given us happiness and joy.
Make us even happier
by leading us closer to Jesus,
who was lifted from our sight
and fills us with the hope of heaven.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Acts 1:9-11)

This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles

As the followers of Jesus looked on, Jesus was lifted up and a cloud covered him so that they couldn't see him any more. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing there. They said, 'Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus, who has been taken up into heaven, will come back in the same way.'

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 46:6-9)

Response: **God goes up with shouts of joy.**

Everyone, clap your hands and shout with happiness to God.
God is the great King of the world. **R.**

God goes up with shouts of happiness.
God goes up with the sound of a trumpet. **R.**

Sing praise to God, sing praise!
Sing praise to our King, sing praise! **R.**

God is king of the world.
Sing praise as well as you can. **R.**

God is king of every people.
He rules from his throne. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said, 'I am with you always, to the end of time.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20)

The eleven followers of Jesus went to the mountain where he had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they worshipped him, but some of them found it difficult to believe. Jesus said to them, 'I have been given the authority of heaven and earth. Go and make followers of all people throughout the world. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do everything I have told you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of time.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray to God our Father in Heaven.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians be joyful people.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we always be ready to worship God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the world.
May we respect and love everything God has made.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are lonely.
May they know that Jesus is always with them.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who have died.
May they live for ever in heaven.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and set our sights on heaven.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
help us and everyone in our prayers
to know that Jesus is always with us.
Gather us together in your heavenly kingdom.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We remember that Jesus is always with us.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
receive our gifts
as we celebrate the ascension of Jesus.
May his gifts lead us to the happiness of heaven,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
you give life to the world.
Help us to follow Jesus to the happiness of heaven,
where he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that Jesus is always with you.

Pentecost

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured on Christ's Church so that, as Jesus was sent by the Father, so too will all Christians be sent out to bring his peace, joy and forgiveness to the whole world. Pentecost brings to an end the fifty days of Easter.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we celebrate the great day of Pentecost. Jesus filled the Church with the power of his Spirit. He sends us to bring his peace and happiness to the whole world.

Symbols*

We bring a map of the world (*or: a globe*).

We want all people in the world to live together in peace.

We bring a flame (*or: burning candle*)

We want our lives to glow with the light of the Spirit.

We bring a balloon.

We want our lives to be filled with the breath of the Holy Spirit

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, let us turn to God,
asking that his Holy Spirit will refresh us with the love of Jesus.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, your Spirit helps us to see you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your Spirit helps us to be strong.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your Spirit helps us to know how much you love us.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

you sent the Spirit on your Church.

May he continue to work in the world

through those who believe in you.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Acts 2:1-11)

This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Pentecost Day came round, the apostles had all met in one room. Suddenly they heard a noise. It sounded like a powerful wind from heaven. The noise filled the whole house. They saw something that looked like fire. The fire separated and rested on the head of each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in different languages. The Spirit had given them the gift of speech.

Now there were prayerful people living in Jerusalem from around the world. When they heard the sound they gathered together. They were amazed to hear these men speaking in their own language. 'How can this happen?' they asked. 'We can hear them preaching in our own language about the marvellous works of God.'

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 103: 1.24.29-31.34)

Response: **Send us your Spirit to make the world new.**

O God, how great you are!

You have done so many things.

The world is full of your good things. **R.**

If you take back your spirit things die and become dust.

Your spirit brings life.

You make the whole world new again. **R.**

Everything you have done makes you happy.

May my secret thoughts be good.

It is God who makes me happy. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit.

Fill our hearts.

Let them be alight with your love.'

Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20)

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were because they were afraid. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you.' He showed them (the wounds in) his hands and side. The disciples were so happy when they saw him. He said again, 'Peace be with you. Just as the Father sent me, so I send you.' He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray.
So, let us pray to God our Father.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May the love of the Holy Spirit fill the hearts all believers.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May the joy of the Holy Spirit bring happiness to everyone.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the world.
May the power of the Holy Spirit make all things new.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all people.
May the peace of the Holy Spirit help people to grow closer together.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are sick.
May the gentleness of the Holy Spirit bring them healing.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and thank God for everything he has given us.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
your Spirit has been poured into our hearts
and helps us to believe in Jesus.
Help us, and everyone in our prayers, to know that Jesus is Lord,
for he lives for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
The Holy Spirit will change them into the body and blood of Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
may your Holy Spirit
lead us to what is right
and help us to know the real meaning of this Eucharist.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

The Holy Spirit helps us to pray
and helps us to call God our Father.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
may these special gifts
help us through life.
May your Spirit help us to be strong and loving.
Through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that the Holy Spirit makes you strong and loving.

Conversion of St Paul

St Paul was once an ardent enemy of the followers of Jesus, travelling around to arrest and imprison them. But on one of his journeys he encountered the Risen Lord and he changed from being an enemy of Jesus to being his friend. He travelled far and wide to share the good news. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul is celebrated on January 25th.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Saint Paul was once an enemy of Christians but he became a great believer. He travelled far and wide to teach people about Jesus. All of us are called to share the good news of Jesus.

Symbols*

We bring a bible.

We want to share the good news of Jesus with others.

We bring a cross.

We want our lives to be changed by the love of Jesus.

We bring a globe (*or: a map of the world*)

We want the Good News to be shared with the whole world

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, Jesus calls us to follow him in faith
and to share his good news with others.

Let's ask him to make us strong and loving.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you were sent to bring good news to the poor.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to follow you in faith and love.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you send us out with the good news of your love.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for St Paul.
He preached the Good News throughout the world.
As we celebrate his friendship with Jesus your Son,
help us to follow him in sharing the good news with everyone.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Acts 22:3-16)

This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul said, 'I was born a Jew. I was brought up in this city and I was trained in the Jewish Law. I have always served God well, just like you do. I hurt the followers of Jesus. I put them in prison. Just ask the high priests and elders. They were the ones who sent me to Damascus. I was on my way there to arrest people and punish them but on my way this happened to me: about midday, a bright light flashed from the sky all around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice, saying, 'Saul, Saul, why do you hurt me?' I answered, 'Lord, who are you?' He said, 'I am Jesus, the one you are hurting.' 'What shall I do?' I asked. 'Get up and go into Damascus,' he said. 'There you will be told what to do.' The light had made me blind so my friends had to lead me. There was a man in the city called Ananias. He helped me to see. 'God wants you to tell everyone what you have seen and heard,' he said. 'Do not delay. Be baptised at once and wash away your sins.'

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm * (Psalm 116:1-2. R. Mk 16:15)

Response: **Go out to the whole world with good news.**

Every nation on earth, praise God!
Every person on earth, shout to God! **R.**

His love for us is strong;
he is always close to us. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said, 'I chose you from the world
to go out and bear fruit that will last.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Mark 16:15-18)

Jesus said to his followers, 'Go to every part of the world, and tell the good news to the whole of creation. Those who believe it and receive baptism will be have life. Those who refuse to believe it will not have life. Faith will bring many miracles. Believers will drive out evil spirits. Even if they are in danger, they will come to no harm. The sick on whom they lay hands will be made well.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us bring our prayers to God our Father.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May we be happy to share the good news of Jesus with the whole world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we love the good news of Jesus.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for priests.

May God help them to bring the message of Jesus to everyone.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for ourselves.

Like St Paul, may we be open to the love of Jesus, who changes the world.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are waiting for good news.

May God send messengers of love and peace to them.

(Lord, in your mercy)

Let us think about how God is calling us

and what he is asking us to do.

Concluding Prayer

Loving Father,

as we celebrate the conversion of St Paul to the faith,

may all for whom we have prayed

be filled with faith and the good news of the kingdom.

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

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine

We want to be fed by Jesus and become more like him.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,

these gifts represent all that we are

and all that we have.

Help us to be messengers of peace.

Help us to share the Good News of Jesus.

We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

We pray to God our Father

that his way may be known on earth.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
your Spirit filled Paul the apostle
with love for Jesus and your holy people.
May the holy food we have received
fill us with love and faith
and make us strong to share the good news of your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

You are a messenger for Jesus.

St David

St David is the patron saint of Wales. His feast day is celebrated on March 1. He has taught us how to be joyful in the faith and to serve God in the little things.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we thank God for St David, the patron Saint of Wales. He has shown us how to follow Jesus. May we always be close to Jesus, just like St David was.

Symbols*

We bring a Welsh Flag.

We want all the people of Wales to know Jesus.

We bring a leek.

We want to be friends with St David.

We bring a lamp.

We want our light to shine for others.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, St David was a very holy man. This means that he was very close to Jesus. Let's pray that we may try to be more like him.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you show us the way to our home in heaven.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you shine in our lives.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to shine for others.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

we thank you for St David.

He has shown us the way to heaven.

One day, may we enjoy heaven too
with St David and all your Saints.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Philippians 3:8-14)

This is a reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians

Dear friends, nothing could be better than knowing Jesus! I would give up everything just to stay friends with him. I have lost everything just for Jesus. Everything else is like rubbish when I think how important it is to know Jesus and to be close to him. I have given up working hard to be perfect because the only way to be perfect is to have faith in Jesus. All I want is to know Jesus and the power of his life. I want people to see his death by the way I live. This is the only way I can hope to have life. I am not yet perfect. I have not yet won. I am still running. Jesus has won me, so that I can win the prize he wants to give me. I don't look behind because I am running to the finishing line. I am running for the prize which God will give us when he lifts us high with Jesus. (This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 1:1-4)

Response: **You will be happy if you trust God.**

You will be happy if you don't listen to bad people
or bother with those who don't have good word about others. **R.**

You will be happy if you listen to God.
You will be happy if you read his word day and night. **R.**

You will be like a tree planted by the river,
a tree that grows fruit and leaves that never die.
You will be green for ever. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Praise to you, O Christ!
Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world.'
Praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16)

Jesus said, 'You are the salt of the earth. If salt loses its taste, nothing can make it salty again. It may as well be thrown away. You are the light of the world. You can't hide a city if you build it on a hill. Who would light a lamp and then cover it? No, they put the light on a stand where it shines for everyone in the house. So, in the same way, your light must shine for all to see. When people see the good things you do, they will praise God your Father in heaven.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let's pray with all Christians everywhere
and with our friends, the saints, in heaven.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for the Church.
May Christians be a light for Wales.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we be shine with the love of God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the people of Wales.
May they know how good it is to be a friend of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the leaders of Wales.
May they always help the poor.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people without a home.
May they know God's love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for those who have died.
May they be at home in heaven,
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and thank God for St David.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we celebrate our friends, the Saints, in heaven
as we pray for our brothers and sisters everywhere.
Help us to grow closer to Jesus
who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presentation of Gifts*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to work hard for Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
through our gifts,
as small as they are,
we want to show how much we love you.
We want to be with you for ever.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to our Father in heaven.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
we have enjoyed being with Jesus
at this special meal.
It is the same meal which gave
St David strength to serve you.
Through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that Jesus wants you to be a light for the world.

Good News for Mary

Thank God for Mary! She accepted God's plans for her and the world. Through her faithful response to God she is the first to receive Jesus. This Eucharist helps us to consider what we are asked to do. God has plans for us. How will we respond? Will we follow Mary's example? This Mass is suitable for the feast of the Annunciation on March 25

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we remember how Jesus came into the world. Mary said 'Yes' to God's plans and she became the mother of Jesus. Today we hear how she first heard about those plans. We pray that we will follow her example.

Symbols

We bring rosary beads.

We want to be close to Jesus, just like Mary.

We bring a newspaper.

We want the world to be full of the good news of Jesus.

We bring a Bible.

We want to share the good news of Jesus with others.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children,

we don't always do what God wants,
or live as God wants us to live.

Let us pray that, like Mary, we will welcome Jesus and listen to him.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you are good news for Mary.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are good news for the world.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are good news for us.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
through an angel's message to Mary
you have shared the news of Jesus' coming into the world.
Lead us closer to you.

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

First Reading* (Isaiah 7:10-14.8:10)

A reading from Isaiah.

Isaiah said, 'Listen now, House of David, are you not happy just with testing each other's patience? Now you are pushing God's patience too. God will give you a sign! This is the sign: a young woman will soon give birth to a son. She will call him 'God-is-with-us.'
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 39)

Response: **I am here to do what you want, God.**

I waited and waited for God.
He heard my prayer.
He bent down to me.
He gave me a new song to sing. **R.**

You do not ask for empty gifts.
You simply want us to listen.
And so, here I am. **R.**

I have read the book of life.
It says I should do whatever you want.
God, I love your teachings with all my heart. **R.**

I have told everyone of your love.
God, you know that I have not held anything back. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Mary said, 'I am God's servant.
I will do whatever he says.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 1:26-38)

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young woman called Mary, who was engaged to a man named Joseph. The angel went into the house and said to her, 'Be happy! The Lord loves you! The Lord is with you!' Mary was confused when the angel said this. She wondered what on earth it could mean. The angel said to her, 'Mary, don't be afraid. You are one of God's favourites. Listen! You are going to have a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of God. God will give him the throne of David. He will rule for ever. Mary said, 'How can this happen?' 'The Holy Spirit will fill your life,' said the angel, 'and God's power will cover you like a shadow. The child will be holy and will be called Son of God. There is more: your cousin Elizabeth, even though she is very old, is also going to have a son. People said she could never have children but now she is now six months pregnant. God can do anything!' 'I am God's servant,' said Mary. 'I will do whatever he says.' And the angel left her.

Invitation to the Prayer Of the Faithful

Let us pray for all the people in the world
that, just like Mary, they may know the good news of Jesus.

Petitions to the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the church.
May we share the good news of Jesus with everyone.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our parents and teachers.
May we know that God is with us.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for places where there is a war.
May the peace of Jesus be good news to everyone.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who have been given bad news.
May they see a sign of God's love in Mary and Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the children of the world.
May they grow up safe and loved.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still
and think about how God wants us to live.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for Mary.
She welcomed Jesus into her life.
Help us to give a home to Jesus
so that others will know his love for them.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to give our whole lives to God.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
we thank you for Mary.
She gave her life to you
so that the world may know Jesus.
Accept our gifts and help us to
give our lives to you, like Mary did.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God our Father that he will give us all we need.
Like Mary, we may receive it with an open heart.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we thank you for all your gifts
but, above all, we thank you for Jesus,
who has welcomed us at his table.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that God has a plan for everyone.
He has a plan for you.

Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary: Mary's Song

We love to sing! This Eucharist celebrates the Magnificat (the Song of Mary), a song which celebrates the wonderful thing God is doing in her life and for the world. The Magnificat is sung or said every day throughout the year at Evening Prayer. This celebration is suitable for the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed virgin Mary on May 31

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Do you have a favourite song, a song that makes you happy? Today we think about one of the favourite songs of the church. It is the song of Mary. She sang about all the wonderful things God was doing. It is a song that makes us happy!

Symbols*

We bring rosary beads.

We want to be close to Jesus, just like Mary.

We bring a newspaper.

We want the world to be full of the good news of Jesus.

We bring a Bible.

We want to share the good news of Jesus with others.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, Mary was so happy because she did what God wanted her to do.

Let's pray that we will follow her example and share her happiness.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you are good news for Mary
(a song of happiness for ever).

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are good news for the world
(a song of happiness for everyone).

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are good news for us
(a song of happiness that fills our hearts).

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

Mary could not keep silent!

She wanted to sing out about the good things you do.

Help us to sing with Mary

so that everyone will know that you are with us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Zephaniah 3:14-18)

This is a reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Daughter of Jerusalem, be happy! Shout at the top of your voice and celebrate! God has set you free. He has pushed away your enemies. God is with you. There is no more evil, so don't be afraid. I will speak to everyone: do not be afraid. Don't let your hands fall tired. God is with you as a great warrior. You will make him so happy and his love will make you new. He will be so happy that he will dance about and shout out for you. It will be like a great festival day.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (cf Isaiah 12:2-6)

Response: **God is great! God is with you!**

God is my help:
I trust in him, I am not afraid. **R.**

God is my strength:
his help is like a deep well. **R.**

God is my song:
I will tell everyone what he has done. **R.**

God is great:
I will sing to him. **R.**

God is with you:
sing and shout for joy. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Mary is happy, Mary is blessed!
She believed the promises of God!
Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 1:39-56)

Mary set out as quickly as she could to a town in the hills. She went into the house and greeted Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary, her unborn baby danced inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with God's Spirit. Elizabeth gave a loud cry and said: 'You are the happiest woman in the world and your child is happy too! Why should my Lord's mother visit me? As soon as I heard your voice, my own child danced inside me. You are so happy because you believed everything God promised!'
And Mary said:
'I may be small but God has seen me,
and so my soul sings out with happiness,

my heart is overflowing: so great is God!
From this day and for ever,
everyone will call me blessed
for God has done great things for me.
His name is holy,
and his love reaches far and wide from one child to the next.
He has shown his power,
he has swept away the high and mighty,
he has pulled princes from their thrones and raised up the weak.
He has filled the hungry with good things.
As for the rich: he sends them away with empty hands.
He has come to help his people:
he has never forgotten his love.
He made this promise many years ago:
to Abraham and all his children for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went home.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray for all the people in the world
that, just like Mary, they may sing of God's love.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the church.
May we share the good news of Jesus with everyone.
(Lord, in your mercy.)

We pray for our school.
May we know that God is with us.
(Lord, in your mercy.)

We pray for places where there is a war.
May the peace of Jesus be good news for everyone.
(Lord, in your mercy.)

We pray for people who have been given bad news.
May God's love in Mary and Jesus be a sign for them.
(Lord, in your mercy.)

We pray for the children of the world.
May they grow up safe and loved.
(Lord, in your mercy.)

Let's be very quiet and very still
and think about how God wants us to live.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for Mary.
She welcomed Jesus into her life.
Help us to offer a home to Jesus
so that others will know his love for them.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to give our whole lives to God.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
we thank you for Mary.
She gave her life to you
so that the world may know Jesus.
Accept our gifts
and help us to give our lives to you,
just like Mary did.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God our Father,
that by doing all he asks of us,
we may echo the song of Mary in our life.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we thank you for all your gifts
but, above all, we thank you for Jesus.
He has welcomed us at his table.
We sing and shout for joy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember to say 'Thank you' to God.

St Anthony of Padua

St Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195. He was a Franciscan Friar and was a very gifted preacher. He travelled throughout Italy and France. His feast day is June 13. He is traditionally renowned as the patron saint of lost articles. In Portugal, Spain and Brazil he is also associated with marriages because of some legends which tell of him reconciling couples.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we thank God for Saint Anthony of Padua.
He had a great gift of preaching.
He loved to tell people about God's love.

Symbols*

We bring a bible.
St Anthony was a brilliant preacher.

We bring a school book.
St Anthony was a great teacher.

We bring a prayer book.
St Anthony loved to pray.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, Jesus wants us to tell others about how much he loves them.
Let's pray that we will always be ready to tell others about Jesus.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you were sent to bring good news to the poor.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to follow you in faith and love.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us tell others about your love.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
you gave St Anthony of Padua to us
as a great teacher and brilliant preacher.
Help us to hear the good news of Jesus,
so that we may share it with others.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Isaiah 61:1-3)

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.

God has given his spirit to me. God has chosen me. God sent me with good news for the poor. God sent me to mend broken hearts and to tell prisoners they are free and to shout out that 'now' is the time that God will put things right. He will help the sad. He will wrap them in happiness. He will lift them up to praise him.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm * (cf Psalm 88)

Response: **I will sing of your love for ever, O Lord.**

I will sing of your love for ever, O Lord.

I will tell people the truth about you. **R.**

I know that your love lasts for ever.

I know that your truth is as solid as the heavens. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

'God sent me with good news for the poor,
to tell prisoners they are free.'

Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 10:1-9)

Jesus chose seventy-two people and sent them ahead of him in pairs. He sent them to all the towns and villages he wanted to visit. He said to them 'The harvest is ready but we need more people to work. So ask God to send people to gather his harvest. Go now and travel light. Don't carry a purse or bag or spare shoes. When you go into a house say, "Peace to this house!" Whenever you go into a town where they welcome you, eat what they give you. Help the sick people, and say, 'God's kingdom is very near to you.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us prayer to God our Father that everyone may know the happiness which comes from God's love.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.

May we be happy to tell people about Jesus.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.

We thank God for our teachers.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the children of the world.
May they know how much Jesus loves them.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all Mums and Dads.
May they be patient and loving.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are sad.
May we help them to be happy.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let us be quiet and still and pray to God.

Concluding Prayer

Loving Father,
we know that you hear us.
We know that you listen to our prayers,
for we make them in the name of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of Gifts*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to be strengthened to tell people about Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
here are our gifts.
Here are our lives.
Help us to bring your good news to the world.
Through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

God's kingdom is very near.
Let us pray that his kingdom will come.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
you chose St Anthony to tell everyone about you.
May this holy food, which gave him strength,
also help us to be strong and loving
We ask this through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that God wants you to be his messengers.

St Alban, Julius and Aaron

St Alban lived in what is now known as St Alban's in Hertfordshire, some time in the first half of the third century. He was converted to Christianity after sheltering a priest on the run from persecution. He was beheaded on Holmhurst Hill, where an Abbey was later built. He is the first Christian martyr of England. Ss Julius and Aaron suffered at Caerleon in Wales. These saints show us of the existence of the Christian faith in England and Wales from early times. Their Feast Day is 20th June.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

People have followed Jesus for a long, long time.

Today we think about three people who died for their faith in England and Wales almost two thousand years ago.

We pray that we may be strong like them.

Symbols*

We bring a crown.

We want to brave (*like Alban, Julius and Aaron*)

We bring a blanket.

We want to care for others.

We bring a seed.

We are amazed at what God does with such small things.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear Children, sometimes it's difficult to be a Christian.

Let's ask Jesus to keep us strong and faithful.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you want us to stay close to you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you show us the way.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to be wherever you are.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

Saints Alban, Julius and Aaron

were the first to die in this land for Jesus.

Help us to be strong like them.

Help us to worship you like them.
Help us, like them, to bring others to Jesus,
who is alive for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading* (2 Timothy 2:8ff)

This is a reading from St Paul's First letter to Timothy

Remember that I carry good news: 'Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.' It is because of this good news that I suffer. I am chained up like a criminal. But they can't chain up God's news! So I put up with everything to help all the people God has chosen. Then they will know God's help that comes from Jesus and the glory that lasts for ever.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm * (cf Psalm 123)

Response: **We flew like a bird from a trap!**

If we didn't have God on our side when people attacked us
we would have been swallowed up alive. **R.**

If we didn't have God on our side
we would have drowned. **R.**

The trap has been broken.
We have flown free. **R.**

•
God has helped us.
He is the God who made the whole world. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (2 Cor 1:3-4)

Alleluia, alleluia!
God is a gentle Father.
He comforts us when we are sad.
Alleluia!

Gospel (John 12:24-26)

Jesus said, 'Think about a grain of wheat. Unless it falls to the ground and dies, it remains just that: a single grain. But if it dies it makes a wonderful harvest. So, you have to die so that you can enjoy life for ever. I you want to serve me then follow me. If you want to serve me then you should be wherever I am. If you serve me, the Father will think great things of you.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us prayer to God our Father.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians be brave and bold.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we grow close to God and one another.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for peace.
May all people learn to love one another.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people of different religions.
May we live together in peace.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people in pain.
May they be strong.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let us be quiet and still and know that God is with us.

Concluding Prayer

Loving Father,
keep us close to you always.
Help us to be strong in faith,
and loving in all we do.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We know that Jesus is always with us.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
here are our little gifts
which we bring to your table.
Help us to be brave.
Help us to be caring.
Help us to know you are always with us;
through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray that God will protect us,
just as Jesus taught us:

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
we have enjoyed being at your table
as we celebrate Saints Alban, Julius and Aaron.
May we who feast on earth
be seated one day at the table of saints in heaven.
We ask this through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that God wants you to be brave for Jesus.

The Birth of John the Baptist

John the Baptist, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, was born six months before Jesus. He was the one who was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. He was the last of the prophets, the greatest of the prophets. This feast day is celebrated on 24 June.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

We love birthdays! Today we celebrate the birthday of someone very special. Today we celebrate John the Baptist's birthday! He was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus.

Symbols*

We bring a candle
we want to bring God's light to the world.

We bring a book of names.
God knows us by name.

We bring a plant.
We celebrate the life God has given us.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear Children, John the Baptist was born to prepare the way for Jesus.
Let's welcome Jesus now as the one who brings forgiveness and love.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, help us to love the light you bring.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, help us to bring your light to others.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, help us to be people of the light.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
you gave us Saint John the Baptist
to prepare a people fit for Christ.
Give us joy and lead our hearts
along the path of life and peace.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Isaiah 49:1-6)

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Islands: listen to me! People who live far away: pay attention! God called me even before I was born. He knew my name. My mouth was like his sword. I was like his arrow. Just as I was thinking, 'I have worked for nothing,' God said: 'You are my servant. You will bring me glory.' All the time I was special to God. He gave me strength. God said, 'I don't want you to be just my servant. I want you to bring light to everyone so that my light will shine in every part of the world.' (This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm * (cf Psalm 138)

Response: **Thank you, God I am brilliantly made!**

O God, you know me through and through.
You know when I am asleep.
You know when I'm awake. **R.**

You know what I'm up to.
You know when I walk or lie down.
You know everything I do. **R.**

Thank you, God,
I am brilliantly made.
I thank you for everything you have made. **R.**

You knew me even before I was born,
when I first began to exist.
You know everything about me. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (Luke 1:76)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Little child, you will be a great prophet of God.
You will prepare the way of the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 1:57-66,80)

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth to her child. She gave birth to a boy. When her neighbours and friends heard how God had been so kind to her, they were happy too. They were going to call the boy after his father, Zechariah, but his mother said, 'No, he will be called John.' But they said, 'No one in your family is called John.' So, they asked his father what his name should be. He wrote down, 'His name is John.' They were shocked. At that moment, he was able to speak again. He praised God. Their neighbours were so happy and everyone talked about what had happened. They treasured what had happened. 'What will this child turn out to be?' they wondered. And so the child grew up and became strong. He lived out in the wild until the day he made his public appearance.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray to God our Father for the church and the whole world.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May we always be ready to point people to Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for little babies.
May they be cared for and loved.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for children.
May they grow up to know they are loved.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our Mums and Dads.
May they guide us in the right way.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are sad and lonely.
May they be led to life and peace.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let us be quiet and still and pray to God.

Concluding Prayer

Loving Father,
our prayers are important to us
because we care for the world and all people.
Our prayers are important to you
because you love us and want us to be with you for ever.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine

We bring bread and wine.
We want to welcome Jesus into our life.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
we place these gifts on your altar
on the birthday of John the Baptist.
He told people that Jesus was coming.
He pointed him out when he came,
for Jesus is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

God's name is holy.

Let us pray to him, for he is our Father.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Lord,

we have enjoyed being at your table

as we celebrate the birthday of Saint John the Baptist.

Help us to stay close to Jesus

for he has given us new life, a new birth.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that God wants you to point out Jesus to others.

Saint Peter and Paul, Apostles

This Feast Day, celebrated on 29 June, celebrates two Apostles who played such an important part in the advance of the gospel and the growth of the Church. St Peter was a fisherman and the brother of Andrew. He was one of the Twelve Apostles and eventually chosen by Jesus as their leader. Jesus said that he was the 'rock' on which he would build his church. He was killed in Rome, by crucifixion. St Paul was a persecutor of the Church but he was converted on the way to Damascus. He became Apostle to the Gentiles. He was beheaded at Rome.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Saint Peter and Paul were friends of Jesus.
They listened to Jesus. They followed Jesus.
They are our friends too.

Symbols*

We bring a bible.
It tells us how Peter and Paul followed Jesus.

We bring a cross.
Peter was crucified, like Jesus.

We bring a pen and paper.
St Paul loved to write to the churches.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear Children, Jesus wants us to be his friends and followers.
So, let's turn to Jesus in love and faith.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you are the Son of the Living God.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you send us out to share your love.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for Saints Peter and Paul.
Through their lives you built up the church.
Guide us closer to life with you that lasts for ever.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Acts 3:1-10)

This is a reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

One day, Peter and John went up to the Temple to pray. There was a man being carried. He had been unable to walk since the day he was born. They used to put him down every day near the Beautiful Gate so that he could beg from the people going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John he asked them for money. Peter and John looked straight at him and said, 'Look at us.' The man turned to them, expecting something from them. Peter said, 'I don't have any money but I will give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ, walk!' Peter held his hand and helped him to stand. Straight away the man's ankles became strong. He jumped up. He stood. He began to walk. He went into the Temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. Everyone could see him. They knew he was the man who used to sit and beg at the Beautiful Gate. The people were amazed and they couldn't explain what had happened.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 18:2-5)

Response: **Their word goes out to the earth.**

Look at the heavens: they tell us of God.

Look at the skies: they show us his work. **R.**

Each day speaks the story of God.

Each night shares the message. **R.**

The heavens can't speak, the skies can't talk, the days have no voice.

And yet their words go as far as the end of the world. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (John 21:17)

Alleluia, alleluia!

'Lord, you know everything;

you know I love you.'

Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 16:13-19)

Jesus asked his disciples a question. 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They said, 'Some people say he is John the Baptist. Some people say he is Elijah or Jeremiah or even one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' asked Jesus. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter spoke up. 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon, you are a happy man! No one told you this. My Father in heaven has shown you the truth. So now I say to you: You are Peter. You are the rock on which I will build my church. Nothing will stand up to it. I will give you the keys to my kingdom. Everything you release or bind on earth will be considered released and bound in heaven.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

With friends like Saints Peter and Paul we know that our prayers are heard.

Let's pray now that their message may go out to all the world.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians be firm in faith.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for bishops.
May they lead us like Jesus, the Good Shepherd.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we work together to share the Good News of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the whole world.
May all countries work for peace.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our families.
May we be warm and welcoming.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let us be quiet and still and pray to God.

Concluding Prayer

Loving Father,
we know that Jesus is your Son, alive for ever.
Listen to the prayers of his church,
which he has built on Peter and Paul.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
The Eucharist makes us strong.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God
we bring the gifts of bread and wine
and our whole lives to you
on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul,
so that we may be holy as you are holy.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Saints Peter and Paul are in heaven with Jesus.
Let's lift our eyes to heaven and pray as Jesus taught them and us.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Lord,
the food from this table strengthened Peter and Paul.
Help us to love their teaching
and to always break bread with love and joy.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that God sends you out to share the Good News of Jesus.

Saint Thomas, Apostle

St Thomas, one of the Twelve apostles, is mostly remembered for doubting the resurrection of Jesus unless he could see and touch for himself. However, once he sets eyes on Jesus, he makes a profession of faith: 'My Lord and My God.' St Thomas was probably martyred preaching the gospel in India. His feast day is July 3

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today is the feast of St Thomas. Thomas found it difficult to believe that Jesus was risen from the dead. We pray that our faith in Jesus will be strong. Jesus is our Lord and God.

Symbols*

We bring a cross.

We believe that Jesus died for us.

We bring a candle.

We believe that Jesus is risen from the dead.

We bring a crown.

We believe that Jesus is Lord.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear Children, believing is sometimes very difficult,
but Jesus stands among us now.
He wants us to know his peace.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you are risen from the dead.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you stand among us.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bring us peace.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
this feast of St Thomas is lovely indeed!
Like Thomas, we believe that Jesus is risen from the dead.
Like Thomas, we believe that Jesus is Lord!
Please give us a share in the life that Jesus brings,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Ephesians 2:19-22)

This is a reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

You are no longer strangers or foreign visitors. You are citizens, just like the saints. You are part of God's family. You are part of a building which is built on top of the apostles and prophets. Jesus is the cornerstone. He keeps everything together. You are being built into a holy temple for Jesus. You are a house where God lives.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm * (Psalm 116:1-2. R. Mk 16:15)

Response: **Go out to the whole world with good news.**

Every nation on earth, praise God!
Every person on earth, shout to God! **R.**

His love for us is strong;
he is always close to us. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (John 20:29)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said, 'Thomas, you believe because you can see.
Happy are those who haven't see and yet believe.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (John 20:24-29)

Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus came to them. They said, 'We have seen the Lord.' He replied, 'I need to see the holes they made in his hands. I need to put my hand in the wound in his side. Unless that happens I will never believe.' Eight days later they were in the house again. This time, Thomas was with them. The doors were closed but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas. 'Put your finger here. Look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it in my side. Stop being an unbeliever. Believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Just think how happy are those people who believe without seeing.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

We believe that Jesus is our Lord and our God.
In his name let us pray for all our needs.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians have strong faith.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for bishops.
May they lead us like Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we work together to share the Good News of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the whole world.
May all countries love the peace of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our families.
May we be warm and welcoming.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let us be quiet and still and pray to God.

Concluding Prayer

Loving Father,
we know that Jesus is with us,
standing among us,
giving us his peace.
Listen to the prayers we have made in his name.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We believe that Jesus is with us in the Eucharist.

Prayer over the Gifts

Jesus, our friend and brother,
we believe that you are Lord.
We believe that you are God.
And so we bring our gifts in your name
that we may always praise you
and know the happiness that comes from your love. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray that God will lead us and guide us
as we pray as Jesus taught us.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
help us, with Thomas,
to know Jesus as our Lord and our God.
May others know him too
through everything we say and do.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that Jesus, your Lord and God, is always with you.

Saint Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe

St Benedict was born in Italy. He turned his back on everything to follow Jesus and lived in a cave as a hermit. His fame spread and disciples joined him. He organised them into communities. He created his 'Rule' by which they should live. He is the patron of Europe. His feast day is celebrated on 11th July.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Saint Benedict was a very special man. He gave up everything to follow Jesus. He loved Jesus more than anything else in the world.

Symbols*

We bring 'The Rule of St Benedict.'
Benedict teaches us to follow Jesus

We bring a cross.
Nothing compares to God's love.

We bring a crown.
Jesus wants us to live with him for ever.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, St Benedict teaches us to prefer nothing more than the love of God.
So, let's promise to love Jesus more and more.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you gave up everything to come and live with us.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you loved us so much that you died for us.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to know you and to love you.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

O God,
you made St Benedict a great teacher,
teaching us how to serve you.
Help us to prefer nothing to your love.
May we speed along the way that you have taught us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Proverbs 2:1-9)

This is a reading from the book of Proverbs.

If you love what I say,
if you live as I teach you,
if you listen to my wisdom,
and love the truth,
if you want to see clearly,
if you want to know things,
if you look for it as though it was silver
or search for it like buried treasure
you will then know what it means to respect God.
You will discover God.
God gives wisdom.
He helps you to know things.
He helps you to see things for what they are.
He helps you if you are honest.
He protects you if you live well.
He guards fairness.
He will watch over those who love him.
Then you will know how to be happy.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm * (cf Psalm 33)

Response: **I will bless God always.**

I will bless God always.
I will always worship him. **R.**

I will boast of God.
The little ones will hear and be glad. **R.**

Worship God with me.
Let us praise God together. **R.**

I looked for God and he answered me.
He set me free from things that scare me. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (Matthew 5:3)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The poor will be happy in the kingdom of heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 19:27-29)

Peter said to Jesus, 'What about us? We have left everything to follow you. What will we have?'
Jesus said, 'I promise you, when everything is made new and I sit on my throne in heaven, you will sit on thrones with me. Everyone who has left behind their family and home for me will be repaid a hundred times over. You will also live for ever with me.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

We believe that Jesus is our Lord and our God.
In his name let us pray for all our needs.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians love Jesus above all other things.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are lonely.
May they know how much God loves them.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
We want to learn more about the love of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the people of Europe.
May all countries help one another.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who want to know God.
God, help them to find you.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let us be quiet and still and pray to God.

Concluding Prayer

Loving Father,
we have prayed because we love you
and because we care about others.
Help all the people for whom we have prayed
to grow in love of you and one another.
Through the Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We know that Jesus loves us.

Prayer over the Gifts

See our gifts, O Lord,
and accept them as we remember St Benedict.
Help us to follow his example of seeking you.
Help us to be one in following you.
Help us to know your peace.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray that God will lead us and guide us
as we pray as Jesus taught us.

Prayer after Communion

In this Eucharist, O Lord,
you promise us life with you for ever.
Help us to be like St Benedict:
following your ways
and loving one another.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that nothing compares to the love of Jesus.

Holy Name of Mary

This little commemoration, celebrated as an 'Optional Memorial' on September 12, will help us to explore the meaning of names, the importance of our name and how God calls us by name. For the Presentation of Gifts each child could write their name on a piece of paper or perhaps one large sheet could be presented with everyone's names colourfully written.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Our names are very important to us. God knows us by name.
We know lots of important people in the Bible by name. They are our friends.
Today we think especially about Mary.

Symbols*

We bring our names (*perhaps slips of paper with names written*)
God knows each one of us by name.

We bring a picture of Mary.
Her name is holy.

We bring the name of our School.
We want to be follow Mary's example.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, Jesus came into the world to be our friend.
Sometimes, we don't live as friends of God.
Let's ask God to help us to be good and faithful.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you came into the world with Mary as your mother.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us by name, just like you called Mary.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to sing your praises like Mary.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father, we thank you for Mary.
You called her by name
and through her you gave us Jesus your Son.
Help us to hear you calling us by name
that we may bring Jesus to others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Galatians 4:4-7)

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Galatians.

When it was the right time, the time that God had planned, God sent his Son. He was born of a woman, born to live under the law to save everybody who lives under the law. He made it possible for us to become God's children. The proof that you are God's children is this: God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. The Spirit cries out 'Father' This makes you a child of God. You are not a slave any more. You are a child. God will give you everything he has promised.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Luke 1:46-55)

Response: **God has done great things for me.**

'I may be small but God has seen me,
My soul sings out with happiness.
My heart is overflowing: so great is God! **R.**

From this day and for ever,
everyone will call me blessed
for God has done great things for me. **R.**

His name is holy,
His love reaches far and wide
from one child to the next. **R**

•
He has shown his power.
He has swept away the high and mighty.
He has pulled princes from their thrones and raised up the weak. **R.**

He has filled the hungry with good things.
As for the rich: he sends them away with empty hands. **R.**

He has come to help his people:
he has never forgotten his love. **R.**

He made this promise many years ago:
to Abraham and all his children for ever.' **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Mary said, 'I am God's servant.
I will do whatever he says.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (cf Luke 1:39-47)

Mary set out as quickly as she could to a town in the hills. She went into the house and greeted

Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary, her unborn baby danced inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with God's Spirit. Elizabeth gave a loud cry and said: 'You are the happiest woman in the world and your child is happy too! Why should my Lord's mother visit me? As soon as I heard your voice, my own child danced inside me. You are so happy because you believed everything God promised!'

Invitation to the Prayer Of the Faithful*

Let us pray for all the people in the world
that, like Mary, they may hear God calling them by name.

Petitions to the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for our friends.
May we be good and loyal to one another.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the people of the world.
May they grow in friendship.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the church.
May we help everyone in the world to know God's love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are lonely.
Help them to know they are loved.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May everyone know how special they are.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our parents who gave us our names.
May they know that they are God's children too.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still and know how much we are loved.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
our prayers are small but we know you hear them,
for we make them in the name of Mary's Son:
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
God gives us good things. We are happy to be his children.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
Mary gave her whole life to you.
Accept our gifts and help us to
give our lives like Mary.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

God's name is hallowed – or holy.
Let us pray to him now for he is our Father.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
we thank you that you have called us to your table.
Through the Spirit of Jesus,
we are your children calling you 'Father'.
You look upon us with love.
You have called us by name.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that God loves you. He knows you by name.

Holy Cross

The cross, of course, is a most significant symbol of the Christian Faith. On 14 September we celebrate the Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross. This Eucharist helps us to learn that the cross is a symbol of the power of Jesus love. It reminds us how much Jesus loves us. There is no need to be scared.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

We see crosses everywhere: in church, in school, at home, or worn by people as pretty jewellery. Today we will learn more about the cross of Jesus. We will remember what it means for us and for everyone in the world.

Symbols*

We bring a cross.

We are happy because Jesus loves us.

We bring flowers.

We celebrate the new life Jesus gives us.

We bring a candle.

We want to bring the light of Jesus to the world.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear Children, when Jesus died on the cross he helped everyone to make a new start. So, let's put all the bad things behind us. Let's ask God to fill us with the love of Jesus.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross to bring forgiveness.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross to bring love.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross to bring life.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
you loved the world so much
that you sent us Jesus your Son to die on the cross,
so that we may be set free from all that is bad
and to live as he has taught us.

May the cross of Jesus always remind us
of your love and the wonderful life we have with Jesus,
for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Philippians 3:8,10)

This is a reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians

Jesus Christ was living in heaven but he did not cling on to being the same as God. He emptied himself. He became like a slave. He became like we are! He became even lower than this because he accepted death, death on a cross! But God raised him high. God gave him the name which is greater than any other name. Whenever his name is spoken, everyone will kneel, and everyone will worship Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 77)

Response: **Never forgot what God has done.**

Listen very carefully to my teaching and my words.
I will tell you a story from long ago,
a story of a lost and beaten people. **R.**

The people looked for God when they needed him.
They remembered that he was their rock. **R.**

But their words were empty,
they told lies to God.
They didn't really believe,
they turned away from God. **R.**

But God was full of love:
he forgave their sins.
He wasn't angry: he gave them life. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
We bless you Lord:
you died on the cross to save the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel (John 3:16-17)

Jesus said, 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may live with God for ever. God sent his Son into the world not to punish the world but to save the world.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

The cross reminds us of how much Jesus loves us.

In Jesus' name let us pray to God.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church
and all who are looking for God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the people who are sad
and for all who are lonely.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people with difficult lives
and all who are scared.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the people who live in places of war,
and those who work for peace.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our teachers and parents
and all who help us through difficult times.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and think about how much Jesus loves us.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
sometimes we are sad or worried about others.
May the love of Jesus
change darkness into light
and sadness into happiness.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to remember Jesus' death on the cross.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
accept the gifts we bring.
We celebrate Jesus' power over darkness and evil.
We share his light and love with others.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

God our Father is kind and loving.
Let us pray that he will make us strong to serve him.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life.
You died on the cross to give us life.
Raise us up to live with you for ever. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Whenever you see a cross remember that Jesus loves you.

St Ninian

*St Ninian (who lived and died around the year 432) is thought to have been a British bishop who was educated in Rome and sent to preach the Gospel to the Picts in Scotland. He set up a monastic community. He reminds us that the Christian Faith has an ancient presence in Britain.
His feast day is September 16.*

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we think about a special man who lived hundreds of years ago.
His name is St Ninian. He lived in Scotland and taught people about Jesus.

Symbols*

We bring a cushion.
We want to sit with Jesus at his table.

We bring a Scottish Flag.
We want everyone to know about Jesus.

We bring a Bible.
We want to learn more and more about Jesus.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, let us pray that we may hear God's word clearly.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you came into the world to share God's love.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you send us out to tell the world about you.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want all people to know your love.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

Lord God,
through the teaching of St Ninian
many people in Scotland came to know the truth about you.
Help us to know the happiness that comes from knowing you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Ecclesiasticus 39:6-10)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

If God wants to he will give the scholar great understanding.
His words will be wise.
He will thank God.
He will become a great learner.
He will think about God's great mysteries.
He will share everything he has learned.
He will take pride in God's promises.
His name will live on.
His wisdom will never be forgotten.
Nations will share his wisdom.
Everyone will celebrate him.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 18:2-5)

Response: **Their word goes out to the earth.**

Look at the heavens: they tell us of God.
Look at the skies: they show us his work. **R.**

Each day speaks the story of God.
Each night shares the message. **R.**

The heavens can't speak, the skies can't talk, the days have no voice.
And yet their words go as far as the end of the world. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
'Go out to the whole world:
Tell the good news.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 16:13-19)

Jesus put this question to his disciples: 'Who do people say I am?' They answered, 'Some people say you are John the Baptist or Elijah or Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' asked Jesus. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter spoke up. 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' 'You are a happy man,' said Jesus. 'You learned this from my Father in heaven and not from any human being. You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church. It will never be defeated.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us bring our prayers together,
praying for the church, the world and everyone in need.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians be at peace with one another.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the people of Scotland.
May they always know the truth about God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who don't know about Jesus.
May they come to know his love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all Christian teachers.
May they speak clearly about Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all bishops.
May they build up the church with love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and enjoy being with Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
you want everyone to know the truth about you.
May everyone in our prayers know your love.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to celebrate Jesus being with us.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
accept the gifts we bring
as we celebrate St Ninian.
May we grow to know you
more and more, day by day.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God our Father
that his ways will be known upon earth.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have gathered us at your table
where we have received your loving gifts.
Send us out now to bring your love to others,
for you are Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember, Jesus wants you to tell others about him.

St Matthew

St Matthew, once an unscrupulous Tax Collector and denounced as a cheat, gave up his old way of life and followed Jesus, appointed by him as one of the Twelve Apostles. His feast day is 21 September

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we think about a friend of Jesus called St Matthew.
He gave up his old way of life to follow Jesus.
He spent the rest of his life telling people about the good news of Jesus.

Symbols*

We bring a white cloth.
We want to sit with Jesus at his table, just like St Matthew,

We bring a candle.
We want to be guided by the light of Jesus.

We bring pen and paper.
St Matthew wrote beautiful things about Jesus.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, just like St Matthew,
who gave up his old way of life to follow Jesus,
let us turn away from all that is wrong.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you were sent to bring healing.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you come to give life to all.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus,
St Matthew gave up his
old way of life to follow you.
Help us to follow his example
and to be close to you always,
so that others may know your love too,
for you are Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Ephesians 4:1-7. 11-13)

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

I beg you to lead a good life. Be kind to one another. Be gentle and patient and work for peace, the peace that makes you one. There is one Body, there is one Spirit. You were all called to share in the same hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God, who is Father of all. However, we have been given different gifts: some of you are apostles, some of you are prophets, some of you are bringers of good news. Some of you are pastors and teachers, so that together you may be one in your work for God. In this way, you will all be together in our faith, you will all know the same things about the Son of God, until we become perfect, full of Christ.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 18:2-5)

Response: **Their word goes out to the earth.**

Look at the heavens.
They tell us of God
Look at the skies.
They show us his work. **R.**

Each day speaks the story of God.
Each night shares the message. **R.**

The heavens can't speak, the skies can't talk, the days have no voice.
And yet their words go as far as the end of the world. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
'Go out to the whole world:
Tell the good news.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 9:9-13)

As Jesus was walking on he saw a man named Matthew who was sitting by the customs house. Jesus said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. When he was at dinner in the house, Jesus and his followers were joined at table by a number of people who had a bad name. Some people asked his disciples, 'Why does your master eat with these people?' When he heard this, he said, 'It is the sick who need a doctor, not people who are healthy. I did not come to call those who are already good but those who have done wrong.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us bring our prayers together,
praying for the church, the world and all in need.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians be at peace with one another.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all priests and ministers.
May they help us to hear the good news of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who don't know about Jesus.
May they come to know his love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we share our gifts with one another.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who keep going wrong.
May they follow Jesus faithfully.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and enjoy being with Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
the good news of Jesus is for the whole world.
Help us to share his love with others.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to celebrate Jesus being with us.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
accept the gifts we bring.
We want to follow Jesus
and bring his love to others.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God our Father
that he will forgive us for the things we have done wrong
and lead us closer to him.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
thank you for inviting us to your table.
Make us strong to serve you,
and send us out to serve you in our lives,
for you are Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that Jesus is always close to you.
How can you be close to Jesus?

Saints Cosmos and Damian

Saints Cosmos and Damian are reputed to be twins. They worked as doctors but didn't charge for their services. They brought many of their patients to believe in Jesus. They were condemned to death around the year 300. Their Feast Day is 26 September

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Cosmos and Damian were brothers. They lived a long time ago and very far away. They loved Jesus very much. They were very brave and gave their lives for Jesus.

Symbols*

We bring a family photograph.

We bring our families to God's table.

We bring a candle.

We bring our hopes to God's table.

We bring oil.

We want the sick to know you love them.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Nothing stood in the way of Cosmos and Damian loving Jesus.

Let's pray that we will be the same.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, help us not to be scared.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, help us to live good lives.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, help us to trust in you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

Lord God,

we praise you for Saints Cosmos and Damian,
two brothers united in love for you.

Now they share your glory for ever.

Help us to be brave and faithful like them.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Wisdom 3:1-9)

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

The souls of those who live for God are in his hands.
No storm will touch them.
The foolish think that they have died but they are in peace.
If they had been punished then they also had a great hope of living for ever.
Their suffering is small compared to their blessings.
God put them to the test.
They proved worthy to be with him.
He tested them like gold in the fire.
When God comes to his people, they will shine out.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 125)

Response: **Their word goes out to the earth.**

When God set his people free
it seemed like a dream.
We laughed and sang songs. **R.**

The unbelievers said, 'God has worked wonders for them!'
Yes, God has worked wonders for us.
Yes, we were glad. **R**

Set us free, Lord.
Let us flow free like streams in the desert.
Those who weep when they work in the fields
will sing songs when they reap the harvest. **R.**

They go out with eyes full of tears,
carrying seed for the field.
The come back with hearts full of song
carrying their fruits. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
'You are happy if you stand strong.
You will win the prize of life.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 10:28-31)

Jesus said, 'Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body but cannot the soul. You know that you can buy two sparrows for a penny? Well, not one of them falls to the ground without God knowing. Every hair on your head has been counted. There is no need to be afraid. You are worth more than hundreds of sparrows'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us bring our prayers together,
praying for the church and everyone in the world.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for our families.
May we live in peace and love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are scared.
May they know that God is close.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all people in danger.
May the Lord keep them safe.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who work for peace.
May the Lord reward them with happiness.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray all the world.
May the whole human family live in peace.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for ourselves.
May we know that God leads us through good times and bad.
(Lord, in your mercy)

As brothers and sisters of Christ,
let's pray quietly to God.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we are happy to celebrate with Ss Cosmos and Damian
because they loved you on earth
and are now with you in heaven,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to celebrate Jesus being with us.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
Cosmos and Damian gave their lives to you.
We bring our whole lives with these small gifts

that we may know your happiness always.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

We are God's family, brothers and sisters of one another.
Let's pray to God our Father.

Prayer after Communion

O Lord,
thank you for your gifts.
Keep us close to you always
that we may live as brothers and sisters
of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Jesus wants you to know that he is with you.

St Michael and All Angels

The Feast of St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael and all the Angels is celebrated on 29 September. In this Eucharist our minds and hearts are raised to the beauty of heaven. We pray that heaven and earth will be one is praising and worshipping God.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we thank God for all the angels who are with God in heaven.
The angels surround us with God's love.
We join with the whole of heaven to worship God.

Symbols*

We bring a flower.
The beauty of earth lifts our eyes to heaven.

We bring a crown.
We believe that Jesus is the King of heaven and earth.

We bring something we have made.
We want to share in the beauty of God.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, let us try our very best to live as God wants us to live.
We say 'Sorry' to God for the things we have done wrong.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, the angels bless you.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, the saints worship you.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, the whole of heaven sings to you.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
we sing the song of angels,
we pray with the whole of heaven,
praising you for the wonderful things you do.
May heaven and earth be one
in carrying out all you ask us to do.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Daniel 7:9-10.13-14)

A reading from the prophet Daniel.

As I watched: 'Thrones were put in place. One of great age took his seat. His robe was as white as snow. The hair of his head was like pure as wool. His throne was a blaze of flames. It had wheels like a burning fire. A stream of fire poured out. Thousands and thousands stood before him. A court was held and the books were opened. I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one that looked like a son of man. He came to the one of great age. He was led before him. He was crowned as a king. All people from every country around the world became his servant. His reign will last for ever. His rule will never come to an end.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 137)

Response: **With angels we bless you, O Lord.**

I thank you with all my heart for you have heard my prayer.
With angels I will bless you and worship you for ever. **R.**

I thank you for your love.
Your love is greater than we ever imagined. **R.**

I called to you and you answered m.
You gave me strength. **R.**

All the kings of the earth will thank you when they hear you speaking.
They shall sing about your ways:
'How great is the glory of God.' **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
'Give thanks to the Lord,
everyone who does what God wants.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 11:25-30)

When Jesus saw Nathanael he said 'Here is someone who deserves to be called one of God's people. He will never lead anyone astray.' 'How do you know me?' asked Nathanael. 'Before Philip called you over,' said Jesus, 'I saw you under the fig tree.' Nathanael answered, 'Teacher, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel.' Jesus said, 'You believe all that just because I said that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than that.' Then he said, 'I tell you now, you will see heaven opened and you will see the angels of God.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray to our Father in Heaven.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church
that we may worship God in the presence of angels and saints.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that the peace and beauty of heaven will fill the earth.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all who help us to worship and pray
and guide us in the right way.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for poets and painters, musicians and writers
and all who make life beautiful.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who preach the good news of Jesus
and who point us to heaven.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and enjoy being in the presence of angels.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we lift our prayers to heaven where,
with saints and angels,
you are worshipped for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to feast in the kingdom of heaven.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
accept the gifts we bring.
We want to worship you for ever
with the angels of heaven,
through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God our Father
that we may do all he asks on earth
just as they do in heaven.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
King of heaven and earth,
with angels and saints we worship you.
One day bring us to heaven
where we will be with you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember to look for beauty in the world.

St Francis of Assisi

St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), whose Feast Day is October 4, turned away from his rich, luxurious life style and became poor for Jesus. He had a great love for all created things.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we think about someone who lived a long time ago and who loved Jesus very much. His name is St Francis of Assisi. He gave up everything he had to follow Jesus. He had a great love for everything God had made. Today we will thank God for all his lovely things.

Symbols*

We bring a blanket.

We want to help people who are cold and sad.

We bring a bird feeder.

We want to look after the wonderful things God has made.

We bring a plant.

We love the beauty of God's world.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, St Francis loved Jesus very much.

Let's say sorry to God for the times we have forgotten to love Jesus and other people.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you gave up everything,
even your life, because you love us so much.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to follow you
and to love you more than anything.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to share your love with others.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

Lord God,
you chose St Francis of Assisi
to give up everything and follow Jesus.
May his example and his love for Jesus
help us to be good Christians
and to praise you for everything you have made..

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

First Reading* (Galatians 6:14-18)

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians

As for me, the only thing I can boast about is the cross of Jesus. It doesn't matter what someone is like now. The most important thing is that they become like a new person. Peace and mercy to everyone who follows this way of life. You are the new People of God. So, let's not have any more trouble from anyone. The marks on my body are the marks of Jesus. The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 15)

Response: **God makes me happy.**

Dear God, look after me as I run to you.
You are my God. You are everything I need.
You are everything I want. **R.**

Dear God, thank you for helping me.
Even when I'm fast asleep God is in my heart.
I always look for God, I feel safe when he is near. **R.**

You show me the path of life.
When I am with you I am full of joy.
I am happy for ever. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (Matthew 11:25)

Alleluia, alleluia!
'We bless you Father,
because you share your secrets with children.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 11:25-30)

Jesus said, 'I bless you Father, Lord of Heaven and of earth! You have hidden things from the people who are clever and wise and shown them instead to little children. You love to do this. Come to me all who try their best but feel worn down. I am gentle and loving and I will give you rest. I will never give you a heavy load to carry.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us fill our prayers with love for God and all that he has made.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians be kind and helpful, just like St Francis.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all who help us to follow Jesus:
our priests, teachers, parents and godparents.
May God bless them and give them strength.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are rich.
May they know that the best thing they can have is to love Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May God help us to care for his world
and all the wonderful things he has made.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all those who have pets or other animals.
May they treat them with respect, just like St Francis did.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very still,
and thank God for all the wonderful things in the world.

(Here it may be appropriate to name some suggestions from the children)

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we love you very much.
Help us to put your love into action
every day of our lives.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to be close to Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
St Francis loved Jesus so very much.
Accept our gifts so that,
in this special meal,
we will know your love in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

God gives us all we need. Let's pray like Jesus,
that he may give us all we need and keep us safe from harm.

Prayer after Communion

Lord,
help us to follow the way of St Francis.
He went out to share your love
and tell people about Jesus.
We have received your love at this table.
Help us to share your love with others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember, to be kind to all God's creatures.

St Luke

This Eucharist, to celebrate the Feast Day of St Luke the Evangelist (October 18) explores the beauty of writing and painting. St Luke wrote the gospel according to Luke, whose strong theme is God's love for the poor and salvation for the whole world. He also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. There is also a lovely legend that Luke painted the first icon of Mary from a cypress table top from the House of the Holy Family. The original icon, now in Czestochowska Poland, was damaged in 1430 and has been painted over.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we thank God for someone who helped to spread the good news of Jesus around the whole world. He lived 2,000 years ago but even today we can read his lovely words in the Bible and hear how God loves the whole world, especially those who are poor.

Symbols*

We bring a Bible.

We want everyone to know the good news of Jesus.

We bring an icon of Mary.

We want to love Jesus just like Mary did.

We bring paper and pen.

We want to write about the love of God.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, St Luke tells us that God sent Jesus into the world to deal with all the bad things in people's lives. So, let's say sorry to God for the things we have done wrong so that we may live as Jesus taught us.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, the good news is that you love us.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, the good news is that you come close to us.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, the good news is that you are our friend.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
you chose St Luke to share his gifts
of preaching and writing
to tell people about your love for the poor.

May all people, wherever they are,
come to know you and worship you.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Acts 1:1-5)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In my first book, I told you all about the things Jesus did and all the things he taught, right from the beginning until the day he was taken up to heaven. This was after he had taught his apostles, the men he had chosen. After his death he spent time with these people, proving to them that he was alive. They saw him with their own eyes for forty days and he spoke to them about God's Kingdom. He told them 'You must wait so that God's promise will come true.'
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 144)

Response: **All your friends will bless you, God!**

All your friends will bless you, God.
They will speak about your love.
They will say how strong you are. **R.**

They will tell people what you have done.
They will say how wonderful you rule.
Your kingdom lasts for ever! **R.**

God is always fair and loving.
He is close to the people he calls.
He is close to those who love him. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (John 15:16)

Alleluia, alleluia!
'I chose you,' said Jesus,
'to go out and bear fruit!
Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 10:1-9)

Jesus chose seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs. He sent them to all the towns and villages he wanted to visit. He said to them 'The harvest is ready but we need more people to work. So ask God to send people to gather his harvest. Go now and travel light. Don't carry a purse or bag or shoes. When you go into a house say, "Peace to this house!" Whenever you go into a town where they welcome you, eat what they give you. Help the sick people, and say, 'God's kingdom is very near to you.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray now for the whole world and for all people.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May it grow in faith and numbers.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are poor.
May they know how much they are loved by God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we learn more about Jesus every day.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for painters and artists.
May they help us to see heaven.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for writers and poets.
May they help us to know the beauty of life.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very still,
and think about the good news of Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
the good news of Jesus is good news for everyone!
Help us to bring this news to others.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want our whole lives to be filled with God's love.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
St Luke used his gifts
to share the good news of Jesus.
Help us to use our gifts to do the same.
We make our prayer through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God,
who loves the poor and the little ones
and wants all people to call him Father.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
thank you for welcoming us at this great feast.
May it help us to feed the hungry and care for the poor.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Use your gifts for God to make the world beautiful.

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving for the Harvest remains an ever popular celebration in the Autumn. These days, it also carries with it an environmental emphasis. This Eucharist may include the offerings of the children, which may be distributed to the poor and those in need. Harvest Thanksgiving is usually celebrated some time during September.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

The leaves are falling from the trees: red and yellow, orange and brown. Autumn time is here!

Today, we thank God for all the lovely gifts of Autumn.

We thank God for his beautiful world.

We thank God for the harvest of food.

We thank God for everything he has given us!

Symbols*

We bring a basket of fruit.

We want to say 'thank you' for food.

We bring a water.

We want your love to flow through the world.

We bring a trowel.

We want to care for God's world.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

If we want to know how good and kind God really is, then we only have to look at all the lovely things in the world, and all the lovely things we have to eat. Let's pray that we will always be grateful for the wonderful things God has given us and learn to share them with others.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, help us to be grateful.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, help us to be kind.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, help us to share.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for all the lovely gifts of food
and for everything you have given us.
Help us to share our gifts with others,

so that everyone will have what they need.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Joel 2:21-24.26-27)

A reading from the book of Joel

Soil, don't be afraid! Be glad! Be happy! God has done great things! All the animals in the field, don't be afraid! The grass is green again and there are lots of fruit on the trees. All the vines and the fig trees will also have lots of fruit. Children of God, be glad! Be happy with God! He has let the autumn rain fall. He has poured down rain upon you in the autumn and the spring. Your barns will be full of grain and your barrels will be full of wine and oil. You will eat as much as you need. You will praise God. He has been so kind to you. He will never let you down. God says, 'You will know that I am with you. No one is like me! I will never let you down.'
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 24 (23))

Response: **All people praise you, God!**

God, look upon us and make us happy.
Let your face shine on us.
You help all people, you show us how to live. **R.**

All nations should be happy
for you rule the world with kindness.
You guide everyone with fairness. **R.**

God has made us happy with the fruit of the earth.
May God bless us
until the whole world worships him. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (Luke 12:27)

Alleluia, alleluia!
'Think about the flowers of the field
and how God clothes them,' said Jesus.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 12:27-31)

Jesus said, 'Think about the lilies in the field: they don't spin or make clothes. But I can tell you that not even King Solomon with all his royal beauty was clothed like one of those flowers. If this is how God clothes the grass, which today is growing in the field and tomorrow is thrown on the fire, how much more will he clothe you? How small is your faith? So, don't be concerned about what you are going to eat or drink. Don't worry! The people who don't believe in God worry about things like this. But think only about God's kingdom. Everything else will come to you.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us thank God for the harvest of food
and all the good things he has given us.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray that we may treat the world with gentleness and respect.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that we may be kind and generous.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are poor and hungry.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that all countries will work together for a fairer world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who don't have what they need to live.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still
and think about the good things God has given us.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we live in a beautiful world,
a world you made for us to live in.
Help us to look after everything you have given us
and to share all the good things with everyone.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to share our food with the hungry.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
from all you have given us
we present these little gifts
but we want to give you our whole lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

God our Father gives us our daily bread.
He gives us all we need.
We pray to him in faith.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we thank you for everything you have given us.
Above all, we thank you for the gift of Jesus
who has welcomed us at his table.
Help us to share his love and life with others.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember to say 'Thank you' for all the lovely things you are given.

Halloween

Halloween (October 31) is All Hallows' Eve – the eve of All Saints' Day (November 1). These days, its Christian significance is lost on most people and the Feast is dominated by pranks and scariness. This Eucharist makes the link between these two aspects: the secular and the sacred, and draws them together into a celebration of all those who have been friends of Jesus over many years!

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Halloween can be fun and scary. It can be full of games but, sometimes, there is mischief. Today we think about what Halloween means for friends of Jesus. It is a time to thank God for all Jesus' friends who are in heaven.

Symbols*

We bring a lantern (*or pumpkin*).
We want the light of Jesus to shine in the world.

We bring a Bible.
We love to listen to stories about Jesus.

We bring a picture of a saint.
We are friends together with Jesus.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

There have been so many friends of Jesus over the years that we can't even begin to count them!
They have shown us how to follow Jesus.
We pray that, like them, we may be more like Jesus.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you want us to be happy by living as you have taught us.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to be happy by being kind to others.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to be happy by loving God our Father.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
today we thank you for all the special people
over the years and throughout the world
who have been friends and followers of Jesus.
Help us to be happy like them.

Together may we know your peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Revelation 7:2-14)

This is a reading from the Revelation of St John.

I saw a huge number of people. There were so many people that I couldn't count them. They came from all over the world and spoke every language. They stood in front of the throne. They were dressed in white robes and carried branches. They shouted, 'Victory to God, who sits on the throne and to his Son.' All the angels were stood in a circle around the throne. They bowed down. They worshipped God. Then someone asked me: 'Do you know who these people are dressed in white? Do you know where they have come from?' 'Please tell me,' I said. 'These are the people,' he said, 'who have been through many difficult times. They have been made new by the love of Jesus.'
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 24 (23))

Response: **We want to see your face, O God.**

The earth and everything in it belongs to God.
He was the one who made it. **R.**

Can anyone climb the mountain of God?
Can anyone stand near him? **R.**

The person who loves and wants only what is important:
God will keep him happy and safe for ever. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
'Come to me all who are tired.
I will give you rest,' says Jesus.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 5:1-12)

Jesus looked at the crowds and then he climbed up the hill. He sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he spoke. This is what he said:
'The poor are happy: God will give them his kingdom.
The gentle are happy: the earth will belong to them.
The sad are happy: God will look after them.
The hungry and thirsty people are happy: they will have everything they need.
The kind and understanding people are happy: they will be treated with love.
The loving people are happy: they will see God.
The people who love peace are happy: they will be called God's children.
The people who suffer because they want a fair world are happy: God will give them his kingdom.

You will be happy, even if people call you names or hurt you because you believe in me.
Your reward is waiting for you in heaven.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us thank God for all the friends of Jesus who are now in heaven.
Let's pray with them for the world.

Petitions*

We pray that the church will always be full of special people who love Jesus above all other things.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that everyone who is celebrating Halloween will be kept safe and sound.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that the fun and games of Halloween will lead us closer to Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that everyone who has died will know the peace of heaven.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that people who are scared or sad will know the love of God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still
and enjoy being friends with Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we are the friends of Jesus.
We pray with all his friends in heaven.
They surround us with love and guide us through life.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to sit at the table of Jesus with all the Saints.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
we love being friends of Jesus
with all the saints of heaven.
Help us to follow him closely.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God our Father with all the saints.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
thank you for the Eucharist.
It helps us look forward to heaven
with Jesus and all the saints.
We make our prayer through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that heaven is very close.

Saints of Wales

Our country and community are full of reminders of the Saints who lived in Wales. This Eucharist helps us to see the saints as our friends. We thank God for them and pray that we may follow their example to make our country a better place. This Eucharist may, of course, be easily adapted for the Saints of other nations! The Feast of All the Saints of Wales is celebrated on 14 November.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

We love living in Wales. There are so many great things to do and so many good people. Today we think about all the people who have been friends of Jesus in Wales over many years. We thank God for them. We want to follow their example.

Symbols*

We bring a 'Croeso' sign.
We want to be warm and welcoming.

We bring a Welsh flag and a cross.
We want the people of Wales to know about Jesus.

We bring a picture of a Welsh saint.
We are friends together with Jesus and all the Saints of Wales

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

There have been so many friends of Jesus that we can't even begin to count them! They show us how to follow Jesus. We pray that, like them, we may be more like Jesus.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you want us to be happy by living as you have taught us.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to be happy by being kind to others.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to be happy by loving God our Father.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
today we thank you for all the Saints of Wales
who have lived throughout the years
and who have been good friends of Jesus.
Help us to be like them
so that together we may know your peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Ecclesiasticus 44:1-5)

This is a reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

Let us praise all the wonderful people who lived before us and did great things. Some are remembered even to this day. Their good works have not been forgotten. Through their children they leave many blessings. Their children keep God's promise. Their children will live for ever. They may be dead now and buried in peace but their name lives on for years and years. The people will tell tales of how wise they were. The people will celebrate their lives.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (cf Psalm 14)

Response: **Trust in God and be happy.**

Lord, who can live on your holy mountain?
Someone who is good and fair and tells the truth
and speaks well of people. **R.**

The person who is kind to his brother and his neighbour.
Someone who follows your way and loves those who believe in you. **R.**

Someone who doesn't cheat or make money from other people's unhappiness:
that person will stand tall for ever. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
'Come to me all who are tired.
I will give you rest,' says Jesus.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 5:1-12)

Jesus looked at the crowds and then he climbed up the hill. He sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he spoke. This is what he said:
'The poor are happy: God will give them his kingdom.
The gentle are happy: the earth will belong to them.
The sad are happy: God will look after them.
The hungry and thirsty people are happy: they will have everything they need.
The kind and understanding people are happy: they will be treated with love.
The loving people are happy: they will see God.
The people who love peace are happy: they will be called God's children.
The people who suffer because they want a fair world are happy: God will give them his kingdom.

You will be happy, even if people call you names or hurt you because you believe in me.
Your reward is waiting for you in heaven.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us thank God for all the friends of Jesus who have lived throughout the years.
Let's pray with them for the world.

Petitions*

We pray for the church in Wales.
May we bring God's peace to everyone.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the people of Wales.
May they know the love of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the children of Wales.
May they all be happy and safe.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for everyone who has died.
May they know the peace of heaven.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we grow together as friends of God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still
and enjoy being friends with Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we are friends of Jesus.
We pray that, like all his friends
who have lived in Wales
are who are now in heaven,
we may tell others about your love and friendship.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to sit at the table of Jesus with all the Saints.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
we love being friends of Jesus
with all the Saints of Wales.
Help us to follow him closely.
Through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God our Father with all God's people.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
thank you for the Eucharist.
It helps us look forward
to the life of our home in heaven
with Jesus and all the Saints of Wales.
We make our prayer through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that the Saints are your friends.

St Cecilia

St Cecilia (2nd century) lived in Rome and is the patron Saint of Musicians and Church Music because, as she was dying a Martyr's death, it is said she sang to God. Her Feast day is celebrated on November 22. This Eucharist celebrates the gift of Music.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Music makes our lives colourful and lovely. Today we thank God for a special person called Saint Cecilia. She used her voice to praise God. She sang right to the end of her life. We thank God for the gift of Music.

Symbols*

We bring a Music CD.
Music makes us happy.

We bring a tambourine.
We want to praise God with music.

We bring a Hymn Book.
We sing to God with all his friends who have ever lived.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, we sing when we are happy. We sing because Jesus loves us. Let's use our voices now to say sorry to God so that we can sing with happiness about his love.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you want us to sing of your love.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to sing of the happiness you bring.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to sing of all the good things you do.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
we love to sing.
St Cecilia loved to sing, too.
Let our voices join with hers
as we praise you for the joy you bring.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Hosea 2:16-17.21-22)

This is a reading from the prophet Hosea.

The Lord says, 'I will lead you into wild places. You will turn to me just like when you were young, just like the time I set you free from slavery. I will give myself to you for ever. I will be true to you and treat you with fairness. I will be gentle and loving. I will always be there for you. And you will come to know me.'

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 44)

Response: **Listen to my words.**

Listen to me, don't worry about your home.

You are beautiful to the King, so worship him. **R.**

She wears robes of gold with pearls.

She is led with her friends to the King. **R.**

They are led with joy and they enter the palace.

You shall have many children who will rule the earth. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!

'Stay awake,' said Jesus,

'you don't know the day or the hour.'

Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 16:13-19)

Jesus told them a story. 'This is what Heaven is like,' he said. 'There were ten bridesmaids. Each had a lamp. Five of the bridesmaids were foolish. And five of them were sensible. The foolish ones didn't take any spare oil for their lamp. The sensible ones did. The bridegroom was late and they all felt very tired and fell asleep. At midnight there was a cry. 'The bridegroom is here!' The bridesmaids woke up and took care of their lamps. The foolish ones said, 'Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.' But they replied, 'There may not be enough for everyone and then all our lamps will go out. You had better go and buy some oil for yourselves.' When they had gone off to buy some oil the bridegroom arrived and the sensible bridesmaids went into the wedding hall with him. The other bridesmaids arrived late and the door was closed. 'Open the door for us,' they cried. 'I do not know you,' he said. 'So stay awake,' said Jesus, 'because you don't know the day or the hour.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray all the people and places in the world.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the church.
May we always sing to God with joy.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for musicians and singers.
May they help to bring beauty to the world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our families.
May they know the love of Jesus too.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the people of the world.
We want there to be peace between everyone.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we bring happiness to everyone in this place.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still
and whisper our little prayers to God.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for your gift of music,
and for all the lovely sounds we hear.
Help us to worship you with joy and love.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to give our whole lives to God.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
we thank you for St Cecilia,
who gave you not just her singing
but the whole of her life.
Help us to worship you as we should.
Through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to God our Father,
who wants us to worship him like the saints of heaven.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
thank you for all that you have given us
in this Eucharist and in our whole lives.
Help us to share our gifts with others.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

When you hear music remember St Cecilia and the love she had for Jesus.

Saint Andrew

One of the first to be called by Jesus, St Andrew gives us a great example of how to follow Jesus. We, too, are called and sent out to share the good news of Jesus. St Andrew is also the patron Saint of Scotland. His feast day is 30 November.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Saint Andrew was once a fisherman but when he met Jesus he knew that he wanted to follow him instead. Jesus chose him as one of his special followers. He travelled far and wide telling people about Jesus.

Symbols*

We bring a map of the world (*or a globe*).

We want the whole world to hear God's Word.

We bring a newspaper.

We bring everyone in the 'News' to God.

We bring a bible.

We want to bring the good news of Jesus to everyone.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, St Andrew was one of Jesus' best friends.

They loved each other very much.

We pray that we may know how much Jesus loves us.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you want us to follow you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to be your friend.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to tell others about you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus,
you chose St Andrew to tell others about you
and to guide your church.

May he always be a friend to us
and guide us closer to you,
for you are Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Romans 10:12-18)

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Romans.

Jesus helps everyone. It doesn't matter how many people ask for his help because everyone belongs to him. If they call out to him, he will help them. But they won't ask for his help unless they believe in him. And they won't be able to believe in him unless someone has told them about him. And this will never happen unless someone is sent to them. The Bible says, 'When you hear the footsteps of someone coming with good news the sound is lovely.' Of course, not everyone who hears this good news will listen to it. But what we preach comes from Christ. Is it possible that they didn't hear? Of course not. They heard our message. Our voice has been heard by everyone. Our message has been sent to the far corners of the world.'

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 30)

Response: **Their word goes as far as the end of the world.**

Look at the heavens: they tell us about God.
Look at the skies: they show us his work. **R.**

Each day speaks the story of God.
Each night shares the message. **R.**

The heavens can't speak, the skies can't talk, the days have no voice.
And yet their words go as far as the end of the world. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said, 'Follow me,
and you will find people rather than fish.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 4:18-22)

Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee and he saw two brothers. They were called Simon Peter and Andrew. They were throwing fishing nets into the sea because they were fishermen. He said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you find people instead of fish.' And they left their nets behind to follow him. Jesus walked on and saw two more brothers, James and John. Their father's name was Zebedee. They were mending their fishing nets. Jesus called to them. At once, they left their boat behind to follow him.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Saint Andrew travelled far and wide to tell people about Jesus.
Let us pray that we may be keen to tell others about Jesus, too.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
Help all Christians to be joyful and happy followers of Jesus.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the people of Scotland.
May Saint Andrew (their patron saint) guide them to Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people with hard or dangerous jobs.
Help them to know Jesus is with them.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
Help us to be followers and friends of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for preachers and teachers.
May they speak clearly about Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and think about how we can share the good news of Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
Saint Andrew left his fishing nets to follow Jesus.
Help us to turn to you every day and follow you.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine
We want our gifts to be used by Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
see our many gifts.
They remind us how we want to follow Jesus.
Help us to follow him,
just like Saint Andrew, our friend in the faith.
We make our prayer through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to our Father in heaven
that we may know which way to take.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
we have enjoyed being together at your table.
Help us to take to others
what you have given to us today.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Be happy to be a Christian!

St Nicholas

St Nicholas (Feast Day: 6 December) was a Greek born Bishop of Myra (part of modern day Turkey) in the fourth century with a reputation for secret gift giving and a particular concern for the poor. He is celebrated throughout the world in various ways in many different countries and cultures. He is the 'model' of the modern day 'Santa Claus.' His feast day is an ideal opportunity to explore and celebrate the provenance of a modern day (and seemingly secular) Christmas custom, draws us back to the call of Christ to love one another as he has loved us, and to remind ourselves of the heart of the Christmas celebrations which is God's love expressed in the birth of Christ. St Nicholas is, among many other things, a patron saint of children and seafarers.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we thank God for Saint Nicholas. He lived a long time ago. He was a friend of Jesus. He was also a friend of children. He was kind to children. He cared about them. He gave them gifts. St Nicholas is known by many different names, among them...Santa Claus!

Symbols*

We bring a coin.

We want to be kind and generous.

We bring an orange.

We are happy because of all the lovely things in the world.

We bring a stocking.

We want to share good things with others.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, a long time ago St Nicholas loved and cared for children. Today, from heaven, he still cares about you. Let us pray that we may follow his example and live as Jesus taught us.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you want us to be kind.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to be holy.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to help others,

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

Jesus your Son taught us

that we should love others just as he loved us.
We thank you for St Nicholas who lived as Jesus taught.
He cared about children.
Help us to care for each other.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (1 Timothy 4:12-16)

A reading from St Paul's First Letter to Timothy

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Be a good example to others by the way you speak and behave. Be loving, loyal and good. Until I arrive, read the Bible and study hard. Remember what you were given when God's promise came true, when the bishops gave you a special task. Be interested in all these things so that others may see how you are growing up. Work hard and be careful about how you behave. By doing all this you will help yourself and those who listen to you.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 39)

Response: **I am here to do what you want, God.**

I waited and waited for God.
He heard my prayer.
He bent down to me.
He gave me a new song to sing. **R.**

You do not ask for empty gifts.
You simply want us to listen.
And so here I am. **R.**

I have read the book of life.
It says that I should do whatever you want.
I love your teachings, God, with all my heart. **R.**

I have told everyone about your love.
God, you know that I have not kept anything back. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
'God has sent me
to give good news to the poor.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Mark 10:17-22)

As Jesus was about to set off on a journey a stranger ran up to him. The stranger knelt before Jesus and asked, 'Good Teacher, what do I have to do to live for ever with God?' Jesus said to him, 'Why are you calling me good? Surely no one is good except God! You know all the things that God expects of you: Do not kill or be unfaithful. Do not steal or lie or cheat. Respect your parents.'

'But Teacher,' said the man, 'I have done all of this since I was a boy.' Jesus looked at him and he really loved him. 'There is one thing you must do,' he said. 'Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor. Then you will be rich in heaven. As soon as you have done this, come and follow me.' When Jesus said this to him, the man felt very sad because he was very rich, and he went away.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

As we prepare for Christmas,
let us pray for all the children of the world
and for people everywhere.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May we may always be kind to the poor.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the children of the world.
May they be loved and cared for.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our parents.
May God give them patience and love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our teachers.
May they help us to learn more about the world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all bishops and priests.
May they speak up for children and help them to be safe.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and know that God loves and cares for us very much.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for all the people who care for us.
Help everyone to know your peace and love.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to share God's love.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
accept the gifts we bring.
We want to be generous and kind.
Help us to share our gifts with others.
Through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to God our Father,
who gives us all we need.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
thank you for this Eucharist
and thank you for all the gifts you give us.
Christmas is very near now.
Help us to be grateful and kind like St Nicholas.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that Jesus wants you to be kind and generous.

St Lucy

St Lucy was a young Christian martyr of the early 3rd Century. Her name means 'Light'. She is patron saint of the those who are blind. She refused to marry someone who didn't want her to be a Christian, and she gave her wedding dowry to the poor. Her Feast day is 13 December.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we thank God for a young girl called Saint Lucy. She lived a long time ago and she loved Jesus very much. Did you know that the name 'Lucy' means 'Light?' Lucy loved the light of Jesus. Even though she lived in very dark and difficult times, she was brave and loyal to Jesus. We ask God to help us to be brave and loyal, too.

Symbols*

We bring a candle.

We want to welcome Jesus, the Light of Life.

We bring wheat seeds.

We want to welcome Jesus, the Bread of Life.

We bring a crown.

We want to welcome Jesus, the King of kings.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, it wasn't easy for Lucy to be a friend of Jesus because there were lots of people who tried to stop her but she stayed loyal. We pray that the light of Jesus will shine in our lives?

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, your light shines in the darkness.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your light brings us warmth.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your light brings us comfort.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

sometimes we are afraid of the dark.

Help us to trust in Jesus, just like St Lucy did.

She knew that Jesus is the 'Light of the world.'

May the light of Jesus shine in our lives, too.

We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Ephesians 5:8-14)

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

Once upon a time you were 'darkness' but now, because you are Christians, you are 'light'. Be at home with the light. Wherever there is light you will find goodness and truth. Learn to know what pleases God. Don't get involved in the awful things that people do in secret. Some of these things are terrible: I find it difficult to speak about them. Everything can be seen in the light. This is why we say, 'Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead. Christ will shine on you.'

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 30)

Response: **My life is in your hands.**

Dear God, protect me, for you are strong.
Lead me and guide me. **R.**

I trust you, God, for you will help me.
God makes me happy because he loves me. **R.**

God, my life is in your hands.
Protect me from harmful people
and look on me with love. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said,
'I am the light of the world.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (John 8:13)

Once again Jesus spoke to the people. He said, 'I am the light of the world. No one who follows me will walk in darkness. They will have the light of life.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

As we prepare for Christmas,
we pray for all the children of the world
and for people everywhere.
May they know Jesus, the light of the world.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
Help all friends of Jesus to brighten the world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the children of the world.
May they be safe from harm.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for places where there is war or danger.

We want peace in the world.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our teachers.

Help them to know how important they are to us.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are scared.

Help them to know your peace and light..

(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,

and enjoy the light of Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,

sometimes the world seems a very dark place.

Help us to bring the light of Jesus to others.

Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine

We want to welcome Jesus today and always.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,

our gifts are small

but we know you do great things with them.

Do great things with us, too.

We want to change the world

so that your love shines everywhere.

Through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray that the light of heaven will guide us

as we pray to our loving Father, as Jesus taught us.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
at this table you have lighted up our lives.
At this table we have seen Jesus, the Bread of Life.
Help us to bring your light to others
and to give food to the hungry.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

When it is dark, remember the light of Jesus.

Looking Forward

A Eucharist for the beginning of a new School Year

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we celebrate coming back to school. We look forward. We are excited by the weeks ahead. We remember that Jesus promised that he would always be with us.

Symbols*

Here is a school book.
We bring our work to God's table.

Here is a calendar.
We bring every day to God's table.

Here is a football (*or some other item*)
We bring our play to God's table.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Before we can look forward with too much excitement, let's think about what we have done in the past, so that we really can put these things behind us and move on with enthusiasm.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you came to show us the way forward.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to leave behind everything that separates us from you.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you want us to follow you.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
we are young
and there is so much to look forward to.
Help us to follow you in everything we do.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Proverbs 2:1-9)

This is a reading from the book of Proverbs.

You will know what it means to respect God
if you love what I say, if you live as I teach you,
if you listen to my wisdom, and love the truth,
if you want to see clearly, if you want to know things,
if you look for it as though it was silver or search for it like buried treasure.
You will discover God.
God gives wisdom.
He helps you to know things.
He helps you to see things for what they are.
He helps you if you are honest.
He protects you if you live well.
He is always fair.
He will watch over those who love him.
Then you will know how to be happy.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm * (cf Psalm 33)

Response: **I will bless God always.**

I will bless God always.
I will always worship him. **R.**

I will boast of God.
The little ones will hear and be glad. **R.**

Worship God with me.
Let us praise God together. **R.**

I looked for God and he answered me.
He set me free from things that scare me. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said,
'I am with you always,
to the end of the world.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20)

The eleven followers of Jesus went to the mountain where he had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they worshipped him, but some of them found it difficult to believe. Jesus said to them, 'I have been given the authority of heaven and earth. Go and make followers of all people throughout the world. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do everything I have told you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of time.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

As we pray we remember that Jesus is always with us.
He promises to be with us throughout this new school year and for ever.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for our school.
May we begin this new term with happiness and joy.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our teachers.
May they help us to learn more about the world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for everyone who works in our school
May each of us help to make our school a great place to be.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who will visit our school this term.
May they find a warm welcome.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for one another.
May we work together to share the love of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very still and think about how God wants us to live,
and who he wants us to love.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we know you listen to our prayer
Help us to listen to you too
and to hear you speaking in our lives.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

Here is bread and wine.
We bring our whole lives to God's table.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
we bring these gifts
so that in celebrating the Eucharist
our whole lives will be changed by you.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to look forward
and to pray for the coming of God's kingdom.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
thank you for everything you have given us:
our families, our friends, our school and our teachers
but above all for the gift of Jesus
who has welcomed us at his table.
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that God wants to be involved in everything you do.

Perseverance

Our life with Jesus is not about being successful. Jesus teaches us that we need to persevere, to struggle on and carry on. Even when things are difficult and we feel like giving up, we should heed the words of Jesus!

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Sometimes, if something is difficult, we may feel like giving up. Today, we ask God to help us to be strong, to carry on, to persevere.

Symbols*

We bring a certificate (*or an award*).

We bring all our achievements to God.

We bring a sample of our school work.

We want to try our best in everything.

We bring a crown.

If we persevere God will give us the crown of life

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, God gives us many gifts to make us strong and persevering. One of those gifts is the gift of forgiveness. Let's celebrate his gift now.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, help us to be strong when things are tough.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, help us to be loving when things are hard.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, help us to carry on when the road is long.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,

your Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that we should persevere.

As we listen to your word

help us to be strong and hard working.

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

First Reading* (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

A reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to Timothy

As for me, my life is poured out for the Lord. The time has come for me to go. I have fought the good fight to the end. I have run the race to the finish. I have kept the faith. I will soon wear the crown which God will give me. The crown is not just for me but for everyone who longs for him. (This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 144)

Response: **All your friends will bless you, God!**

All your friends will bless you, God.
They will speak about your love.
They will say how strong you are. **R.**

They will tell people what you have done.
They will say how wonderful you rule.
Your rule lasts for ever! **R.**

God is always fair and loving.
He is close to everyone he calls.
He is close to those who love him. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (John 15:16)

Alleluia, alleluia!
'I chose you,' said Jesus,
'to go out and bear fruit!
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 24:9-13)

Jesus said to his disciples, 'There will be times when you may be handed over to your enemies and punished and put to death. You will be hated by all nations just because you believe in me. Many people will fall away. People will hand one another over and hate one another. There will be many lying prophets who will lead people astray. Love will grow cold. But anyone who stands firm and keeps going will be saved.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray now for the church and all people.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for people who have difficult or dangerous jobs.

Lord, help them to be strong.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for Christians who feel like giving up.

Lord, help them to be faithful.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.

Lord, help us to encourage one another.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who help us.

Lord, help us to be grateful.

(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for world leaders.

Lord, help them when they struggle for peace.

(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very still,

and ask God to help us in our work.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,

sometimes life is difficult.

Sometimes things are hard to do.

Help us all to persevere.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.

We bring our work and our whole lives to God.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,

accept these gifts we bring,

tokens of our love and life.

Help us to be strong,

help us to persevere.

We make our prayer through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God our Father,
who gives us our daily bread to make us strong.

Prayer after Communion

Lord God,
you fill our lives with many gifts,
gifts which bring us strength.
May all we have received from you at your table,
bear fruit in our lives.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that God wants you to persevere.

'If I could change the world'

There may be times when all of us think we know what could or should change in the world. What would the children do if they could change the world? This Eucharist explores how change begins with you and me. It is through the love of Jesus and by living as he has shown us, which really changes the world for the better.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

God's world is wonderful but sometimes the world isn't very nice because people do horrible things and spoil God's world. Today we will be thinking about what we can do to make the world a better place.

Symbols*

Here is a plant.

We want to look after God's world.

Here is a spade.

We want to help to make the world beautiful.

Here is a candle.

We want there to be peace in the world.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

God wants us to look after the world. He wants us to be kind and loving. Let's ask God to help us to live as he has shown us in Jesus.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, the world is wonderful and amazing,
full of colour and beauty:
but we don't always look after it.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came into the world
to show us how to love one another:
but we don't always share your love.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you sent your Spirit
to help us to live like you:
but we don't always do the right things
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

God of Love,
forgive us for everything we have done wrong
and help us to be more like Jesus so that we may change the world with his love. **Amen.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
the world you have created is wonderful and amazing
but sometimes we do things to spoil it.
Help us to change the world
so that it becomes the world you want it to be.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Genesis 1:1-5;26-27)

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God made the world, it was very dark and the world was just an empty space. Nothing had been made. God breathed over the waters. God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God set apart the light from the darkness. He called the light 'Day' and the darkness 'Night'. There was evening and there was morning that first day. God said 'Let us make human beings. We shall make them to be like us. They shall look after the fish of the sea and the birds of the air. They shall look after the cattle and all the wild animals of the earth and every creeping thing.' So God created human beings to be just like him in the world. (This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 148)

Response: **Praise the Lord!**

Angels and Saints, praise the Lord from high above!
Praise him, sun and moon and stars. **R.**

Praise the Lord from down below, all you animals in the deep sea.
Fire and hail, snow and frost and stormy winds that blow when God speaks. **R.**

Mountains and hills and trees, wild animals and farm animals,
creeping things and flying birds. **R.**

All kings and leaders, all rulers and people.
Young men and women, old and young. **R.**

God's name is high above heaven and earth.
So let us praise God for he has chosen us to be close to him. **R.**

Gospel (John 15:10-12)

Jesus said, 'Do what I tell you, and my love will fill your life. I have done everything that God has told me and his love fills my life. I am telling you this so that you may share in my happiness. No one will ever make you happier. This is my order to you: love one another in the same way as I have loved you. If you are my friends, you will do just as I have told you.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

As we pray for God's world and all God's people,
we remember that he wants us to love and respect everything he has made.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

Some people are lonely.
We pray that they may know friendship.
(Lord, have mercy)

Some people are poor.
We pray that they may have all they need.
(Lord, have mercy)

Some people are sad.
We pray that they may know happiness.
(Lord, have mercy)

Some people are at war.
We pray for peace.
(Lord, have mercy)

Some parts of the world have been spoiled.
We pray we may treat God's world with respect.
(Lord, have mercy)

Some people are hungry.
We pray that they may have food.
(Lord, have mercy)

Some people are scared.
We pray that they may be free to enjoy life..
(Lord, have mercy)

Let's be very still and think about how God wants us to live,
and who he wants us to love.

Concluding Prayer

God our Maker,
help us to look after the world you have made.
May all people grow in love and respect
for you and one another.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

Here is bread and wine.
We want to thank God for everything he has given us.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
we bring these gifts
so that we may celebrate the Eucharist
and help to change the world.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to call God 'Our Father.'
Let's pray that we may live as his children.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
thank you for making such a beautiful world,
and thank you for making us welcome at Jesus' table.
Help us to look after the world you have made
and to share your love with one another.
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that 'changing the world' begins with you and me!

Our School

There are many children in the world who don't have the same opportunities for learning as we do. This Eucharist thanks God for our school, provides an opportunity to think about others, and helps us to look for ways to make our school even better!

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we thank God for our school, where we learn more and more about the world, ourselves and each other. We thank God for all our teachers and everyone who helps us in school.

Symbols*

We bring a candle.

We want the light of Jesus to shine in our lives and make the dark world bright.

We bring a school book.

We want to learn more and more about God's world.

We bring a picture of our school.

We want everyone in our school to be safe and happy.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Sometimes we forget to say 'thank you' for all the lovely gifts we have been given. So, let's ask God to help us to be more and more grateful for all the gifts he gives us.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, your light brightens our minds
and helps us to learn about your love.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your love softens our hearts
and helps us to see that you are with us.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your Holy Spirit guides us
and helps us to live as you have shown us.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
you make us happy, you fill our lives with lovely things.

Thank you for our school.

Help us to share our gifts and to help each other to grow in your love.

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

First Reading* (Ecclesiasticus 50:24-26)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Bless the God of all things!
He does great things everywhere.
He has been with us since before we were born.
He is always loving.
May he give us happy hearts and bring peace to us now,
peace which will last for ever and ever.
May his love be with us always.
We pray that he will come now to rescue us and give us freedom.
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 137 1-5)

Response: **I thank you, Lord, for your love.**

Thank you, Lord, with all my heart.
You have heard my prayer.
I will bless you with the angels.
I will come close to you. **R.**

Thank you for being so close to me always
Thank you for your love.
It is greater than we ever knew. **R.**

I called and you answered.
You made my spirit strong.
Every leader on earth will thank you when they hear you speaking. **R.**

They shall sing about you!
They will say how great you are! **R.**

Gospel Acclamation* (Ephesians 1:3)

Alleluia, alleluia
Thank you, God our Father,
you have given us so many gifts from heaven in Jesus.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 10:21; 23-24)

Jesus said, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You have hidden things from the wise and the clever and shown them instead to children. Yes, Father, it makes you happy to do this.' Then turning to his followers he spoke to them in private, 'You must be so happy because of what you have seen. Many kings and holy people have wanted to see what you see but never saw it. They wanted to hear what you hear and never heard it.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us say thank you to God,
who does great things everywhere,
as we pray for the world and all people.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the church.
May others be blessed through us.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we treasure the gifts we are given and help each other to learn.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our teachers.
May they be full of wisdom and show us how to live.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for friends who find it difficult to learn.
May they be given all the help they need.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for children who don't have their own school.
May they be given all they need to learn about the world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very still and quiet,
and thank God for all the lovely things in our school.

Concluding Prayer

Father,
give us happy hearts:
happy to love and happy to learn.
May everyone in our prayers be happy too.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We are happy. We want to make others happy too.

Prayer over the Gifts

Generous God,
accept the gifts we bring.
They are just some of the many gifts you have given us.
Help us to know that you are always with us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Jesus teaches us the right way.
He teaches us how to live.
He has taught us to call God 'Our Father.'

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
we have listened to your Word.
We have been fed with holy food.
We have celebrated all the lovely things you give us.
Help everyone in our school to know how much you love them.
Be with us as we learn more and more about your world.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Think about how you can make your school even better.

Promises

Promises: sometimes we make them, sometimes we break them - yet God always keeps his promises. All the promises of God find their fulfilment in Jesus. He is the New Covenant, the New Testament, the new agreement and promise between God and his people.

Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we remember that God always keeps his promises.
Jesus is the promise of God. He promises to be with us always.

Symbols*

We bring a 'rainbow'.
The promise of God is beautiful, like a rainbow.

We bring a bible.
The promise of God is true, like the Bible.

We bring a baptism candle.
We want to keep our promises to God.

Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, as we begin our Eucharist,
let's remember that Jesus promised to be with us always.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you are the promise of God.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the promise of love.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the promise of forgiveness.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
all the promises you ever made
are seen in Jesus.
Help us to trust your promises.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Genesis 9: 8-16)

This is a reading from the book of Genesis.

God said to Noah and his sons, 'I am making a promise with you and all your children who will come after you, and with every animal on earth, as many as came out of the ark. You will never again be cut off by a flood. There will never again be a flood to destroy the world. This is the sign of my promise between me and you: I have set my bow in the clouds. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is in the clouds, I will remember the promise between you and me.'
(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 146 (147) 8-11)

Response: **God is pleased with those who love him.**

God fills the sky with clouds.
He makes it rain on earth. **R.**

He makes green grass grow on the mountains.
He gives plants for us to use. **R.**

He gives animals their food,
and the young ravens who call to him. **R.**

He has no need of horses for battle.
He doesn't care how strong we are. **R.**

God is pleased with those who worship him.
He is pleased with those who wait for his love. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said, 'Remember,
I am with you always
to the end of time.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20)

The eleven followers of Jesus went to the mountain where he had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they worshipped him, but some of them found it difficult to believe. Jesus said to them, 'I have been given the authority of heaven and earth. Go and make followers of all people throughout the world. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do everything I have told you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of time.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Since we trust God,
let us pray to him now,
for the Church and all people.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for the Church.
May all Christian keep their baptism promises.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we know that Jesus is always with us.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are married.
May they keep the promises they made.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for leaders.
May they love God's promise of peace.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray quietly.
May we learn to trust God more and more.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
your promises are beautiful and brilliant,
your promises are to be trusted.
May all people know that Jesus is with them always.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine
The promise of God is all we need, like bread.
The promise of God flows through the world, like wine.

Prayer over the Gifts

Loving Father,
we bring you these gifts because we trust you.
We bring you these gifts because we love you.
We look forward to receiving
the promise of Jesus at this table.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

We trust the promises of God
because he is our Father,
and so we pray.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
Jesus is always with us
and we have enjoyed being with him
at his table, just as he promised.
Through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that Jesus has promised to be with you always.

Our Baptism

We may tend, at times, to consider our Baptism to be a past event, something which happened to us, perhaps, when we were very small. This outline for the Eucharist helps us to see how, as baptised Christians, we are always living the new life of Jesus. Through our baptism, we are made Children of God and members of Christ's body, the Church.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Many of us were baptised a long time ago, when we were babies. Today we are going to be thinking about the meaning of baptism. We thank God for the new life he has given us with Jesus.

Symbols*

We bring a white garment.
In baptism we have put on Christ.

We bring a baptism candle.
In baptism we have been given the light of Christ.

We bring water.
In baptism we became members of God's family, the Church.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, our baptism is like being born again, it is a new life in Jesus, a new beginning. So, let's turn away from all that spoils our life with Jesus and make yet another new start!

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, in our baptism you fill us with the joy of your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in our baptism we become Children of God our Father.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, in our baptism we become members of your family, the church.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

It may be appropriate to sprinkle the children with holy water.

Opening Prayer

God our Father, we thank you for your gift of baptism,
which makes us your children and members of your family, the church.
Keep us close to Jesus always
through lives of love and kindness.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Titus 3:4-7)

This is a reading from St Paul's Letter to Titus.

God is kind and loving. He has come into the world: not because we have done anything great or good but because he is kind and understanding. In the waters of Baptism he has given us a new start. He has poured out the power of the Holy Spirit which makes us new. He has filled us with grace. Now we can hope to live for ever with God. You must trust what I say.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 50)

Response: **Give me a heart full of love, O God.**

Give me a heart full of love, O God.

Make my spirit strong. **R.**

Do not turn me away.

Let your Spirit come near. **R.**

Give me your help and make me happy.

Give me courage and help me live. **R.**

I will teach your way to others.

People will find you again. **R.**

You do not want empty gifts.

A heart full of love makes you happy. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!

A voice came from heaven,

‘You are my Son; you make me happy.’

Alleluia!

Gospel (cf Mark 1:9-11)

Jesus was baptised by John in the River Jordan. As he was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven opening, and the Spirit came down and rested on Jesus, just like a dove. A voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son; you make me happy.’

Invitation to Prayer of the Faithful

Let us thank God for our baptism and pray for God's world.

Petitions for Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray that the church will be full of people who live like Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that our families will help to make our homes warm and loving.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that God will help us to be kind and good to others.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that our whole school will grow in love for Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray that all the countries of the world will live together in peace.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still, and be close to Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
listen to our prayers
and help all people to know your love,
the love you poured out on us at our baptism.
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
In baptism we gave our whole lives to Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
you have made us part of your family
and we are pleased to call you Father.
See the gifts we bring
as we enjoy being with Jesus at his table.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

In baptism we become members of God's family,
so that, together, we can pray to God our Father.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we have celebrated the Eucharist together
as brothers and sisters of Jesus.
Send us out now,
filled with happiness and joy,
for you are Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Remember that you belong to God.

Peace

There doesn't seem to be a day or week that goes by without some item in the news telling us of some war or battle. For children, this can be rather scary news. In this celebration of the Eucharist, we pray for peace in the world but also explore how we are called to be peacemakers in our own school, family and community.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we pray for peace. Peace is a gift from God. Some people prefer to fight or argue. Sometimes there are wars in the world. God want us to live together as brothers and sisters. He wants us to be at peace. Today we pray for peace.

Symbols*

We bring a flower.
It is beautiful, like peace.

We bring a candle.
We light it for peace.

We bring a rainbow.
It is the promise of peace.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children,
let's pray that we may love God's gift of peace

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, help us to be kind.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, help us to be good.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, give us your peace
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
you made a beautiful world
and gave it to us as our home
for us to live together in peace.
Help us to live as Jesus has shown us,
so that everyone will enjoy the peace he gives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Philippians 4:6-9)

This is a reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

There is no need to worry. If you need anything, ask God for it with thanks. The peace of God is greater than we can understand and it will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Jesus. Think only about things that are true and good and pure, the things that we love and respect, things that are worth praising. Keep doing all the things I taught you, all the things you have seen me do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

(This is the word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 71)

Response: **God will bring peace.**

May the mountains and hills bring peace to the people.
May God look after the poor and help all children in need. **R.**

God will look after the people with love.
He will give peace until the light of the moon fades. **R.**

He will help the poor and needy when they cry.
He will pity the weak and save the poor. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
'I give you my peace,' said Jesus.
Alleluia!

Gospel (John 14:27)

Jesus said, 'I am giving you one more gift before I go, it is the gift of peace. It is not the same peace that the world tries to give you. I am giving you my own peace. So, don't worry or be afraid. I told you that I am going away and that I will come back to you. If you love me you will be happy that I am going to the Father, because he is greater than I am. I am telling you this now so that when it happens you will have faith.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray together
that God's peace will fill the whole world.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for an end to sadness and a beginning of happiness.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for an end to war and a beginning of peace
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for an end to hate and a beginning of love.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for an end to greed and a beginning of kindness.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for an end to fear and a beginning of trust.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still
and enjoy the gift of God's peace.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
help us to live as Jesus has shown us,
for he is full of love
and wants the whole world to live together in peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to feed the hungry.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
with these gifts we bring our
hopes and dreams for a peaceful world.
Help us to bring your peace to others.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

God wants us to be peacemakers.
So let's pray that we may learn to do what he asks.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
thank you for welcoming us at this table of peace.
We have listened to Jesus' words of peace.
Help us to bring his life to the world.
We make our prayer through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Today, try to share only words of peace.

Our Church Building

Most people may talk about 'going to church' rather than 'being the church.' Having a building which we call 'the church' has perhaps led people into forgetting that, in our baptism, we are made members of the Church, which is the People of God. In this Eucharist we thank God for the Church building but, as St Paul reminds us, we are the living stones. We are God's building.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we thank God for this special building. It was built a long time ago by people who loved God so that we could have a home to worship him. This is the house of God's church. This is where God's church meets together.

Symbols

We bring a stone.

We are the living stones of the church.

We bring a cross.

We want to build our lives on Jesus.

We bring water.

We remember our baptism.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, St Paul teaches us that we are God's building.

We are like living stones built on Jesus.

Let's pray that we may build our lives on Jesus.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you make us into living stones.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the foundation of our lives.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you give us strength and keep us together.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
fill this place with your love
and help us to worship you as your children,
built on Jesus the Lord,
who lives with you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading* (1 Corinthians 3:9-11.16-17)

This is a reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

You are God's building. God has helped me to be a great designer and to begin building. Someone else has carried on this work. All the builders must work carefully. Jesus is the only foundation. Couldn't you see that you were God's special building? The Spirit of God is living in you. If anyone destroys God's building, God will destroy them because God's special building is holy. You are that special building.

(This is the Word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 45)

Response: **God is with us.**

God is our safety, he makes us strong.
He is our helper when things go wrong. **R.**

There is no need to be scared:
even if the world shakes and the mountains fall into the deep sea. **R.**

Water brings happiness to God's city.
It is where God lives, it is where God can be found. **R.**

The city cannot be toppled
for God will help it when day breaks. **R.**

The God of all people is with us, he makes us strong.
Just think of all the great things he has done on earth. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus said, 'Destroy this temple
and in three days I will rebuild it.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (John 2:13-22)

Just before the Passover festival Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He went to the Temple where there were people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons. The money changers were sitting at their desks. Jesus made a whip and he threw all the people out of the Temple, along with the cattle and sheep, and he knocked the tables of the money changers over. He said to the pigeon sellers, 'Take everything away! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!' 'Who do you think you are?' they asked. Jesus said, 'Destroy this building and in three days I will raise it up. They said, 'It took forty-six years to build this place. And you think you can rebuild it in three days?' But Jesus was speaking about his the temple of his body. When Jesus rose from the dead his followers remembered what he had said and they believed him.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

As we enjoy this special place
we remember that we are the living stones of the church.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians be living stones built on Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the place where we live.
May all people live together in peace.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for own homes and families.
May we know that God is with us.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May it be a place of welcome.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for all the people who visit this special place.
May they know the love of God.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and enjoy being in this special place.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for this lovely building
which teaches us about Jesus and ourselves.
Help us to be built up together into a special building for the Lord.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want Jesus to live in us.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
accept our gifts, we pray.
Make our faith strong,
our hearts loving and our lives holy.
Through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let's pray to God,
that we may live on earth as they do in heaven.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
we thank you for this building but, above all,
we thank you that we are your building,
a place where Jesus can live among us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

When you pass a Church Building remember that you are living stones.

Jesus the Healer

We are called to share Jesus' healing love in the world. We are called to reach out to others with kindness and compassion, just like Jesus. This Eucharist celebrates the healing power of Jesus and helps us to be strong and loving so that we can bring his healing to others.

An Introduction to the Eucharist*

Today we think about how Jesus went about doing good.
He changed people's lives. He made the sick well again.

Symbols*

We bring a bottle of water.
We want to help all who are in need.

We bring a bandage.
We want to care for those in pain.

We bring the oil of the sick.
We want to bring God's healing to people.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear children, Jesus has shown us how to live.
He taught us to do good things.
He cared for everyone who was sick and in need.
So, let us turn to Jesus who heals us.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you heal the sick.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us when we go wrong.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you care about us.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for sending Jesus.
He lived among us, healing the sick and loving the poor.
Help us to be his healing hands in the world.
so that we can bring his love to others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Philippians 4: 10—13)

This is a reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I am full of joy in the Lord. I have never wanted for anything. I am happy with whatever I have. I know how to live with very little and I know how to live when I have lots. I know the secret of true happiness. It doesn't matter if I have a full stomach or an empty stomach. It doesn't matter if I am rich or poor. I can do everything for Jesus. He gives me strength.

(This is the Word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 143:1-2; 9-10)

Response: **God is our rock.**

Bless the Lord. He is my rock.
He makes me strong. **R.**

God is my love. He is my castle.
He protects me and saves me. **R.**

God is my shield, the place where I hide.
He makes me strong. **R.**

I will sing a new song to God.
I will make music to God. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus gave us the good news.
He cured all kinds of sickness.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Mark 3:1-6)

Jesus went into the synagogue. He saw a man whose hand was withered. People were watching him to see if he would help him. It was the Sabbath, (*which is a special holy day*). Jesus said to the man, 'Stand up so everyone can see you.' Then he asked the people, 'On the Sabbath, is it right to do good or to do bad, to save life or to kill?' But they didn't say anything. Jesus was unhappy because they were so stubborn. He was angry with them. He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' The man stretched out his hand and it was better.

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Let us pray for all the people in the world,
especially those who are sick or ill or in pain.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for the church.
May we share the love of Jesus with everyone.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for doctors and nurses.
May they be strong and caring.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are ill.
May they know the love of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are disabled.
May they be treated with respect.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for children who are hungry.
May they have enough to eat and drink.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for people who are very old.
May they know how special they are.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still
and ask God to help us to be strong and loving.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for sharing your healing love in Jesus.
May all who are scared or frightened, sick or ill,
know how much Jesus cares for them.
for he is alive with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine
We want to celebrate the love of Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
look at the gifts we bring.
We love you very much.
Make us strong and loving,
so that we can help all who are in need.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to our Father in heaven,
that all people may have what they need.

Prayer after Communion

God our Father,
through this Eucharist you make us strong.
May we always stand up for the poor and needy.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Try to make 'good' choices today.

Jesus our Friend

This Eucharist explores how Jesus is our friend. Jesus loves and cares about children. He always welcomes them. This Eucharist may also be suitable for the beginning of a New Term as we remember that Jesus is always our friend. He is always with us.

An Introduction to the Eucharist

It's great to have friends! It's good to know that people care about us and love us. The best friend we can have is Jesus. Today we will learn more about his friendship and try to grow closer to him. He is with us always, today and throughout the year to come.

Symbols*

We bring seeds.

We want to grow together in love.

We bring books.

We want to learn lots of new things.

We bring a Bible.

We want to know more about Jesus our friend.

An Invitation to the Penitential Rite

Dear Children, Jesus is always our friend:

So, let's ask Jesus our friend to help us to be good and holy.

Invocations of the Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you are our friend

but sometimes we forget about you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are our friend

but sometimes we feel scared and lonely.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are our friend

but sometimes we don't share your friendship with others.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
you sent Jesus as our friend and brother
to teach us how to live
and show us how to love.
Help us to listen to him speaking to us now.
He is always at our side and in our hearts.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading* (Philippians 3:8,10)

This is a reading from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Dear friends, nothing could be better than knowing Jesus! I would give up everything just to stay friends with him. Remember how much he suffered. Don't forget that we can always share our troubles with him when things go wrong.
(This is the Word of the Lord)

Responsorial Psalm* (Psalm 62:7-9)

Response: **Lord God, I am happy to be with you.**

Dear God, I lie in bed at night and think of you.
I lie in the darkness of the night. **R.**

I remember how good you are.
You have always helped me. **R.**

I am like a little bird in a cage that clings to its mother.
You are like the mighty eagle protecting its young. **R.**

God, I am happy to lie here in the dark.
I lie under the shadow of your wings. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, alleluia!
'Let the children come to me.
Do not try to stop them.'
Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 18:15-17)

People brought children to Jesus. When his followers saw them they told them off. But Jesus called for the children, and said, 'Let the children come to me. Don't try to stop them. The kingdom of God belongs to them. If you don't accept the kingdom of God like a little child you will never be able to enter it.'

Invitation to the Prayer of the Faithful

Jesus loves us and cares for us.
Let us pray in his name for all our needs and concerns.

Petitions for the Prayer of the Faithful*

We pray for the Church.
May all Christians grow in the love of Jesus.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our school.
May we know many blessings throughout the year.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our teachers
May they help us to learn more about the world.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for the little ones in our school.
Help them not to be afraid.
(Lord, in your mercy)

We pray for our families and friends.
Help us to welcome Jesus into our lives.
(Lord, in your mercy)

Let's be very quiet and very still,
and enjoy being with Jesus.

Concluding Prayer

God our Father,
our prayers are filled with love
for you and one another.
Help us to grow in your love.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presentation of bread and wine*

We bring bread and wine.
We want to be close to Jesus.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father,
look at the lovely gifts we bring.
May this Eucharist help us to know your love,
now and throughout the days to come.
We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us that God is our Father.
He loves us very much, and so we pray.

Prayer after Communion

Loving Father,
we have sat at the table of Jesus our friend.
Help us to know how close he is
every day of our lives.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Look out for people in school who need a friend and be a friend to them.

Prefaces

Advent I

Long ago, you made the plan to come and set us free,
a plan which Jesus brought to us,
showing us the way to your love.
Now, with excitement and wonder,
we wait for the day when your love will rule on earth,
for Jesus will come again
and fill the world with his brilliant light.

Advent II

For many years,
holy men and women said that he would come.
Mary, his mother, longed for him with love.
John the Baptist shared the news of his coming
and showed us who he was when at last he came.

Christmas I

When the time was right,
he was born for us on earth,
shining in our lives,
brightening the way ahead
and leading us to a life with you that never ends.

Christmas II

Through his birth in Bethlehem
he leads everyone back to you,
the one who created us in the beginning,
so that we may know how much you love us
and come at last to the life of heaven.

Epiphany

He is the light of all people.
He is brighter than the brightest star.
He is more dazzling than the shining sun.
He shines among us now
bringing us new life,
and making us more like him.

Baptism of the Lord

He was baptised by John in the River Jordan
and your voice called out from heaven
telling us how pleased you were
to give us Jesus your Son.
Your Holy Spirit, like a dove,
set Jesus apart as King
to that he could rule the world with love.

Candlemas

In him you give a light for all people.
Cradled in ther arms of Mary his mother,
he is a sign of hope and love,
a sign of a new world and a new way to live.

Lent

Each year you help us to prepare for Easter.
You make us strong to turn away from all that is bad
so that we can live for for Jesus alone.

Passiontide

He became human like us
even to the point of dying,
dying on a cross.
But you raised him high,
so that he may bring all people closer to him
and give them life for ever.

Easter

Today we praise you with joy and happiness:
Jesus is risen from the dead!
He is alive for ever.
Your powerful love gives life that lasts for ever.

Ascension

Today he was lifted to the heights of heaven,
with angels' voices singing his praise.
Although we no longer see him
we know he is always with us.
He fills us with hope, he leads us on,
he guides us closer to heaven.

Pentecost

Today you sent the Holy Spirit on your people
to share the life of Jesus,
helping us to be one family,
speaking with one voice,
and having one faith.

Holy Cross

Long ago, he died on a cross
but you raised him from the dead,
so that now, in our own time and always,
we can live with him for ever.

St Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and all the Angels

Through him the angels sing the songs of heaven.
They worship and praise you for ever.
They are happy to live with you,
they are happy to live for you,
and to obey your loving commands.
Let heaven and earth join together
to sing your praises for ever: **Holy, holy, holy...**

Holy Eucharist

At the last supper he sat at table with his friends.
He gave himself to you,
a perfect gift of love.

At this supper, at this table,
you feed your people
to make them strong and holy,
so that everyone on earth
may share one faith
and live together in love.

At this supper, at this table,
we come to sit with Jesus
and to be fed by him
so that we can grow strong in his love.

Blessed Virgin Mary I (Mary's Song)

As we remember (the Blessed Virgin) Mary
we are happy to sing her song,
a song which fills the world with love
a song of happiness for ever,
for you have done great things
and people, in every age, have known your love
and sung their song of praise.

Blessed Virgin Mary II

When you chose Mary, your little servant,
you raised her up to be the mother of Jesus your Son,
who has come to help all people.
And so, with her, we want to serve you too
that we may bring the good news of Jesus to a world,
a world which needs him so much.

Apostles

He called his apostles and sent them out
to share the good news of life with you,
to heal the sick,
and help the lost find their way
so that everyone will know the power of your love.

Holy Men and Women I

Today we celebrate Saint *N*
His/her life shines brightly with your love
for you have given *him/her* the gift of life.
Everything *he/she* did and said fills our hearts with love for you
for *he/she* has shown us how to follow Jesus.

Holy Men and Women II

Today we celebrate *Saint N*.
Her/she is our friend in the Faith
for *he/she* helps us and keeps us safe from harm.
To be *his/her* friend helps us race forward
so that we can share *his/her* prize of living with you for ever.

Martyrs

We celebrate the life of all your holy people
who have been so brave and loving.
Saint N. loved you so much
that *he/she* was ready to die for you.
Nothing could come between *him/her* and you,
and so you gave them a special place,
a heavenly home, to live with you for ever.

All Saints

Today we celebrate the life of heaven
where all the saints, our friends in the faith,
sing songs of praise to you for ever.
The life they share with you makes us happy.
To share their life makes us strong
as we hurry along our journey of life,
eager to meet them.

Our Church Building

To be in this place makes us happy
and helps us to see more of heaven.
To stand and sing in this house of prayer
makes us want to worship you even more.
You call us to be living stones,
so that we become a beautiful building for you,
a place where you can live.

Jesus our Friend

He is our friend for he cares for us.
He calls children to come to him
and listen to him,
to learn more about him,
and to be ready to bring others to him too
so that they can know his friendship.

Jesus the Healer

He brought his love to those in need.
He healed the sick
and gave hope to those who were sad.
Today he wants us to bring his healing love to others,
to speak words of hope
and reach out with gifts of love.

The Promise of Jesus

He promised to be with us always,
right to the end of time.
He sends us out to bring his promise to others
so that everyone throughout the world
will learn to trust God
and know how much he loves them

Peace

He has given us the gift of peace,
a peace which is more than we can ever imagine,
a peace which is not like anything the world can give,
a peace which lasts for ever.
This gift of peace fills us with hope
so that all people will live together as friends.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Through Jesus you made the world
and gave us all we need.
We thank you for all your gifts:
for the beauty of creation
and all the lovely things on earth.
We want everyone to know you
and how you fill their lives with lovely things.

Baptism I

You have sent the Holy Spirit on your people
to share the life of Jesus,
helping us to be one family,
speaking with one voice,
and sharing the same faith.

Baptism II

He rose from the dead on the first Easter Day
to make us children of light.
In baptism we share in a new life with Jesus,
full of happiness that will never end.

Our School

You always teach us what is right
and you help us to know you,
so that we may live as you teach us
and learn even more of your love.