**COMMUNION REFLECTION:**

**A Friendship Blessing**

May you be blessed with good friends.

May you learn to be a good friend to your self.

May you be able to journey to that place in your soul where there is great love, warmth, feeling and forgiveness.

May this change you.

May it transfigure that which is negative, distant or cold in you.

May you be brought into, the real passion, kinship and

affinity of belonging.

May you treasure your friends.

May you be good to them and may you be there for them;

may they bring you all the blessings, challenges, truth and

light that you need for your journey.

May you never be isolated; but may you always be in the gentle nest of belonging with your anam cara.

**(John O’ Donohue from “Anam Cara”)**

**Concluding Prayer**

God of New Beginnings, guide us with your spirit as we

begin our new school year. May we be excited about

experiencing and learning all that is new to us. May we

realise how important each of us is and help us to share

the light of Jesus. Amen

**Recessional Hymn:** Shine Jesus Shine

*The Beginning of the School Year*



*Share the Light of Jesus*

**ENTRANCE SONG: Christ Be Our Light**

**INTRODUCTION –**

Good afternoon everyone! I would like to welcome you all to the first school mass of the year. The theme of today’s Mass is “Share the Light of Jesus.” As a student body we would like to celebrate “Sharing the Light of Jesus” throughout the rest of our school year.

We know how important it is to live our faith and follow Jesus’ examples and teachings. Each of us can share the light of Jesus everyday! Whether you are as young as a 1st year or as old as a 6th year, whether you are a teacher or a parent, each of us can make a difference by how we treat each other. When we are kind to each other, using kind actions and words, the light of Jesus within us shines for others to see. No matter who we are, we can all work together to share the light of Jesus!

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

As we begin our mass, we ask God's forgiveness for our faults and failings, for our sinfulness and particularly for ways in which we needlessly hurt each other:

I confess to almighty God

and to you, my brothers and sisters,

that I have greatly sinned,

in my thoughts and in my words,

in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

through my fault, through my fault,

through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,

all the Angels and Saints,

and you, my brothers and sisters,

to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**OFFERTORY SONG: Ag Críost an Síol**

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION**

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord God, accept our gifts and see the goodness of your people who offer them to you. Free us from the influence of evil in our lives by the power of Jesus who is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen

**Communion Hymns:** I am the Bread of Life

 Panis Angelicus



**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Let us make our prayers to God, as we pray at the beginning of our school year:

The response will be “Lord, Help us to walk in your light”

 :Lord, may we share our light generously with those in our world who live in poverty. Help us to find ways to share the good things in our lives with them and to share our concern by praying for them. We pray to the Lord.

 All: “Lord, Help us to walk in your light”

: Lord, We pray for our school community. We pray for all our teachers and staff; those new to us and those who have been with us. We pray to the Lord.

All: “Lord, Help us to walk in your light”

**:** Lord, We pray for those in our school and parish community who have died. Teach us to share our light with those who need comforting. We pray to the Lord.

All: “Lord, Help us to walk in your light”

**:** Look after us Lord, during this coming year; help us live in this school as a Christian community.

All: “Lord, Help us to walk in your light”

**:** Lord, We pray for anyone that is new to our school especially the first years and foreign students. We hope they will be happy here and find plenty of friends.

All: “Lord, Help us to walk in your light”

*Let us pray:*

Help us Lord, to always walk in your light and use well the talents you have given each of us. May all in this school feel valued, for who we are in your sight. May all we do and learn be in your service, and in the service of love, both now and in the future.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of All Light, We pray that your light will shine ever more brightly in our lives. Help us, Lord, at the beginning of our school year. Help us in our work and in our friendships.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

**First Reading -** Ephesians 3:14-21

*We look ahead to another year. Our first reading is a prayer of St Paul for people he taught. He prays that we grow strong in different areas of our lives. We make this prayer our own today.*

A reading from a letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This then is what I pray, kneeling before the Father: In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable your inner selves to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth: so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God. Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or image; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 62*

R. Only in God is my soul at rest, in Him comes my salvation

**Gospel** Mark 4:35-41

*When we look to another year, we don't know what's in store, will it be a happy year, a difficult one? The gospel is a story of trusting in the presence of Jesus as he was present in the apostles' rough times, so he is present with us.*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

With the coming of evening that same day, Jesus said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped.

But he was in the stern, his head on a cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, "Master do you not care? We are going down!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet now! Be calm!" And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, "Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?" They were filled with awe and said to one another: "Who can this be? Even the wind and sea obey him".

The Gospel of the Lord

**HOMILY**