



Opening of The New School Year Prayer Liturgy for the Classroom

Theme: Jesus is With Us

Opening Hymn: Be Still and Know that I Am God

Leader: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Introduction:

As we begin this term in a very changed school environment, let us close our eyes and become aware of God's presence within us and all around us. We all have many hopes for the year ahead as well as fear and uncertainty but let us invite Jesus to be with us now and always.

Opening Prayer:

God our Father, we know that You love us as a Mother loves her child.

We know that You care for us as a Father cares for His child.

Today we pray for Your blessing on this opening of our year together.

Bless each one of us.

Open our minds to the possibilities that this year holds.

Open our eyes to the wonder of each new day.

Open our hearts to the love of Your Spirit.

May Your hand be with us, keeping us from hurt and harm.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Leader: (Optional: - Covid regulations to be followed)

Hymn/Music: Be Still My Soul (played/sung as envelopes are held by the students to their hearts)

I now invite each of you to hold your envelope containing your hopes for the future close to your heart. As you do this, consciously hand over your hopes and fears to God, trusting that Jesus is with you and when you seek Him you will discover that He is already there waiting for you; waiting to be with you in your struggles, in your hopes and in your successes.

You can place your envelope in the box at the door as you exit the room. These envelopes will be returned to you at the end of the school year so you can reflect on your journey through the year. We ask Jesus to be at the centre of all our lives in the coming year and now entrust everything to Him. (This box will be kept in a safe place during the year)

Scripture:

Let us listen now to the reading from the Book of Isaiah

First Reading: Isaiah 49: 15b-16

God said, *“I shall not forget you. Look I have carved you on the palms of my hands.”*

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Psalm: Here I am Lord or Be not Afraid

Intercessions:

Prayer of Introduction

As we begin our school year let us be mindful that Jesus our friend is with us in everything we do and say, so let us bring our prayers and petitions before Him.

Reader 1:

We take a moment to think about someone or something that might be making us anxious about the year ahead.....

Pause Lord Hear Us. **Lord Hear our Prayer**

We take time to reflect on what can we do to make this school year a positive experience for ourselves and others.....

Pause Lord Hear Us **Lord Hear our Prayer**

Reader 2:

We pray for our school staff. May they continue to be beacons of light to the students, staff, parents, governors; we pray they will be given the awareness, insight, and patience to lead us to new paths of discovery. May they be free from stress and anxiety and may peace flow through their work.

Pause Lord Hear Us **Lord Hear our Prayer**

We pray God’s blessing on the coming school year, on our work, our dreams, and our aspirations. May each of us be filled with a spirit of co-operation and may we share our gifts so that the very best may be achieved.

Pause Lord Hear Us **Lord Hear our Prayer**

Reader 3:

We pray for our families and friends who love and support us. May the Lord bless them for their patience and generosity and may bonds be strengthened through mutual openness and care. We thank them for their love and support, and we ask them for their continued guidance.....

Pause Lord Hear Us **Lord Hear our Prayer**

We pray for those who doubt their abilities. May their fellow students offer them a welcoming hand to encourage, support and offer practical help when and where it is needed.....

Pause Lord Hear Us

Lord Hear our Prayer

Prayer

Creator God, we place this school year with all its plans, hopes and dreams before you. Pour out your spirit on all our endeavours. Let us never be so rushed or pressed for time that we do not have time for one other or to reach out to one another. Despite study and commitments, may we all find the space to ponder what guides our thoughts and decisions each day. Lord, we ask all these things in your holy name. **Amen**

Reflection

Now as we reflect on the promise of Jesus 'I am with you always; yes, to the end of time' let us listen/pray together this intercessory prayer (adapted St Patrick's Breastplate)

Leader: Read each line and then ask students to repeat the line **or** alternatively place the prayer on the whiteboard and all pray together.

Jesus be with us, Jesus be within us
Jesus be behind us, Jesus be before us
Jesus be beside us
Jesus comfort and restore us
Jesus be beneath us, Jesus be above us
Jesus be in quiet, Jesus be in danger
Jesus be in hearts of all who love us
Jesus be in mouth of friend and stranger

Our Father

United as a family, we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.....**Our Father**

Concluding Prayer

May the Lord bless us and keep us
May the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.
May the Lord uncover his face to us and bring us peace.
Amen (adapted from Numbers: 6:24-26)

Let us make the Sign of the Cross together as we sing:

Hymn: Give me joy in heart

