***Third Year Mass of Thanksgiving***

*Reach for every star because everything is possible for you!*

**Opening Song:** Oh Happy Day

**Introduction:**

We have gathered here today to mark the end of the Junior Cert cycle. It’s a time of joy and sadness. We celebrate the unity we have shared in the past year, the friends we have made, the fun we have had together and we ask God’s blessing on all our students and their families gathered here today.

**Opening Prayer:**

Father of light from whom every good gift comes,

Send your spirit into our lives so that

The horizons of our minds be opened,

So that we may proclaim the truth that Jesus is Lord,

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God forever and ever.

Amen

**Penitential Rite:**

We ask God’s forgiveness for the times we haven’t acted lovingly towards others.

**Student 1:**

Salt symbolises flavour. We ask forgiveness today for the times we failed to bring flavour into each other’s lives and left them dull and tasteless.

Lord have Mercy

**Student 2:**

This stone reminds us of the need to ask forgiveness for the times when we threw hard and cruel words at each other.

Christ have Mercy.

**Student 3:**

This plant reminds us of our failure to take opportunities to grow in our lives.

For this we are sorry.

Lord have Mercy.

**Student 4:**

This feather reminds us of the air and spirit and freedom.

We ask forgiveness today for the times when we have curtailed other people’s freedom and our own freedom and spirit by our selfishness.

Christ have Mercy.

**First Reading: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (1:15-23)**

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Psalm:** On Eagle’s Wings

**Gospel:** **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (28:16-20)**

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Homily:**

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

1. Lord we pray for all students doing exams this year. May God grant them gd health and success in the coming weeks.

Lord Hear us.

1. Lord we pray for our parents. We thank God for all their love and support through our school years.

Lord Hear us.

1. Lord we pray for all the staff in our school. May each and every one of them have a very restful summer.

Lord Hear us.

1. Lord we pray for the friends we have made here and ask you to bless them especially those who are in difficulty.

Lord Hear us.

**Offertory Procession:**

1. A Plant. We offer this plant as a symbol of our growth over the past three years. Lord may we continue to grow in your love.
2. A Ring. We offer this ring to celebrate the friendships we have experienced in \_\_\_\_\_ and we thank you for them. During this Mass we ask you to help us share our friendships with those we meet.
3. Schoolbooks. We offer these books to symbolise all that we have learned and will learn.
4. A Hurley stick. Through our sporting lives here in school we have experienced fun Lord help us to be full of the joys of life.
5. We bring the bread and wine to the altar as signs of our continued nourishing presence with us. May we always be aware of your presence in our lives through the love we experience and through the Sacraments.

**Communion Music:**

**Communion Reflection:**

I am thankful, Lord for the support of a friend’s hand, for the hug of sympathy and friendly warmth for the embrace of love and care.

I am thankful for the people whose lives touch mine with friendship.

I recall, Lord the love that has helped me to grow from childhood to this day.

The care of parents and friends that meant security and love. The presence of the friend who cheered me when I was sad. The words of encouragement when I was afraid.

The offer of sympathy when I was unhappy.

I thank you, Lord, for this gift. You have been there for me through the goodness of others and because I know that time is always time and place is always place. I rejoice that things are as they are...

**Concluding Prayer:**

Our lives are marked forever by those we meet; by the friendships we make and the love we experience, he quarrels and the reconciliation’s, the work we have tried to do together for each other and those less fortunate. All this has given us something that will last. Long after we have forgotten marks and results, we will remember the friendships and the fun and the laughter.

Lord guide us in our future paths, we place all our trust in you. Amen.

**Exam Prayer for Students**

**Lord pour out your Spirit of Wisdom on me**

**Help me to remain calm**

**To attend carefully to the questions asked**

**To think clearly, to remember accurately**

**And to express myself well.**

**Grant that I may reflect the best of the work I have done,**

**And the best of the teaching I have received.**

**Help me not to become unduly stressed.**

**Lord I place all my trust in you.**