

**Diocese of Elphin
Education Secretariat**

**Board of Management
Beginning-of-School-Year Prayer Service & Recommitment Ceremony
September 2017**

A lit candle surrounded by a non-lit night light for each member of the Board and the secretary is placed in the centre of the table with an open bible, a small bowl of Holy Water & small palm branch, a small statue of Our Lady and in the case of schools that have a saint patron, e.g. St. Cuan's College, a small icon of the saint if one is available.

The school chaplain leads.

Introductory Rite

Leader: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are always present to us. Let us take a moment to become present to them.

Brief Silence

Leader: O God, come to our aid.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,

All: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A hymn in praise of Christ

Christ be near at either hand,
Christ behind, before us stand;
Christ with us where'er we go,
Christ around, above, below.

Christ be in our hearts and minds,
Christ within our souls enshrined;
Christ control our wayward hearts;
Christ abide and ne'er depart.

Christ our life and only way,
Christ our lantern night and day;
Christ be our unchanging friend,
guide and shepherd to the end.

Penitential Act

Leader: Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another
and to the Father:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader sprinkles the group with Holy Water.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

Brief silence

O God,

who care for all your people with gentleness and rule them in love,

endow all gathered round this table with a spirit of wisdom,

that _____ 's school community may be led to know the truth more fully,

and to grow in holiness according to your will.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 41:9-10

You are my servant. I have chosen you and will not cast you away.

Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God.

I will give you strength.

I will bring you help.

I will uphold you with the right hand of my justice.

The word of the Lord

A moment of silence

Recommittal Ceremony

Leader: On behalf of the diocese, and in particular on behalf of all the Christian families and faith communities served by _____ I thank you for your willingness to recommit to _____'s Board of Management.

By now you are likely to have a living sense of the challenges, creative tensions and blessings, that accompany your responsibilities.

Remember, God's grace is always there for you. This evening, in addition to recommitting yourselves to the work of the Board, I invite you, through the simple act of lighting the night lights that represent each of you, to entrust yourselves and all associated with _____'s school community to the Blessed Trinity's loving providence and care.

Lighting of night lights.

I now invite you, in the light of God's grace, to renew your commitment.

Do you accept the responsibility to manage _____ on behalf of Bishop Kevin and on behalf of the parish communities served by _____?

I do.

Do you promise to continue to sustain, nurture and develop the Catholic Ethos of _____?

I do.

Do you promise to continue to help ensure that all students of _____ are given every opportunity to reach their full potential as children of God?

I do.

Bidding Prayers

Lord God, you have established us in hope. Nothing can break the confidence of those who love you.

– Father, our trust is in you.

We give you thanks, Lord God, for you have made women and men rich in all wisdom and insight.

– Father, our trust is in you.

Lord God, you know the hearts of all associated with _____: help us to work well together for the good of our students and staff and for the good of all the families and communities served by _____.

– Father, our trust is in you.

Lord, you empower humankind to glorify this world with art: may the work of our staff and students live with vision and true hope.

– Father, our trust is in you.

You desire that everyone live life to the full. Bless, in a special way, all students for whom this will be their last year in our school community. Grant them the graces they need at this time.

– Father, our trust is in you.

Lord God, you promised your children a share in your Son's resurrection on the last day: remember all associated with _____ who have gone before us on the path to eternal life.

– Father, our trust is in you.

All: Our Father ...

Concluding Prayer

Let our evening prayer rise up before your throne of mercy, Lord,
and let your blessing come down upon us,
so that now and for ever your grace may help and save us.

We make this prayer through Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Blessing

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Members extend to one another the sign of peace.