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Consult with your celebrant before choosing readings from this document as they may prefer use the readings for the Mass of the Day.

A collection of resources to assist in the preparation of a Year Six Graduation Mass.

Year Six Graduation Mass

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# Welcome Suggestions

**1**.

On behalf of the Grade 6 students, I would like to welcome you to the 20-- (*insert school name*) School Graduation Mass. We extend a special welcome to Father (*Celebrant’s name*), (*Principal’s name*), staff, parents, family, and friends. Thank you for being here with us this evening to help us celebrate our past and our future. We have many treasured memories of our experiences at (*insert school name*), and we are happy to share them with you today.

Tonight, we look to the future, leaving behind what has become familiar to us and taking that next big step in our journey. We pray that Christ will be the light that guides us on our journey as we embark on our secondary education. Tonight, we reflect, we remember, we thank and we pray.

Please stand now and join us in singing our Gathering Hymn.

**2**.

Tonight, we are all gathered to celebrate the Grade 6’s journey at (*insert school name*). We thank God for all we have achieved. We give thanks for our family, friends and teachers who have helped us throughout our Primary School years.

May God guide us through secondary school and give us the strength to always do our best.

Please join in our Gathering Hymn.

**3**.

We are gathered together this evening to celebrate our time at (*insert school name*). This marks the close of our Primary School years, but with every door we close a new one opens. So tonight, we also celebrate looking ahead as we take the next step in our journey and move on to high school.

We are here because of the hard work and dedication of so many people – our parents, carers, family, parish community and our teachers. We would like to begin our celebration this evening by remembering the teachers of (*insert school name*) who have guided us through the past seven years. We now bring up a candle to remember our teachers, those present today and those who have moved on.

*Two candles are carried down and placed on a small table at the front of the church.*

The memories we take are precious. We know that we have all grown and enriched our lives with the experiences of being part of (*insert school name*), (*town’s name*). We ask for God’s help to stand up for what we believe and for what we know is right. Wherever we may go, whatever we may do, may God be there to guide and care for each of us on our journey.

To begin the celebration of our Graduation Mass please, stand for our Gathering hymn.

# Gathering Hymn Suggestions:

Shine Among Them- Andrew Chinn and Friends

Our Hearts Burn Within Us- Andrew Chinn

Together as One- Andrew Chinn

We Come Together- John Burland

This is Our School- Andrew Chinn

We Shine- Jane Mitchell

# Introduction/Reflection Suggestions

1. **Symbol Reflection**

*Read by a staff member. Celebrant to receive the symbols.*

Our 20-- Grade 6’s primary schooling is concluding and so we gather together as a faith community to celebrate and give thanks for all the blessings we have received. It is a time for these students both to remember and to look forward to new schools, new friends and new beginnings. I now invite our children to come forward to present their symbols.

**Procession of Symbols:**

**Symbol:** *candle*

**Reader:** Our candle represents Jesus, the light of the world. It reminds us that Jesus is always present in our world. As we prepare to leave Primary School we are reminded that we are asked to be the light of Christ for others wherever we are.

**Symbol:** *Bible*

**Reader:** The Bible is the Word of God. When we listen to the Word of God and respond to its message each day, we learn to live as followers of Christ.

**Symbol:** *School banner*

**Reader:** Our banner shows our school emblem and motto – *(insert school motto)*. We are grateful for the many gifts and blessings we have received through being part of this school community.

**Symbol:** *globe of the world*

**Reader:** The globe is a reminder that as members of the Body of Christ, we are part of a much wider community. Led by the Holy Spirit we should always be aware of the needs of others and be prepared to use our gifts and talents to help and support them. God, our Father, we know you are always with us. We know that each of us here in this school is connected to your love. May we continue to be guided by the light of Christ in everything we do.

1. **Procession of symbols**

We have been part of this school community for seven years. We came with our many undiscovered God given gifts and talents. Our teachers and parents have helped us to discover and to celebrate what we have received from the Holy Spirit. The following symbols represent some of our many gifts and talents which we have learned to use for our own wellbeing and for the wellbeing of others.

* The class photo represents the gift of friendship
* A family photo reminds us of our homes, which are our first place of learning
* The books symbolise the learning which has occurred in each person.
* A basketball represents the gift of sport and the importance of being a team player.
* The bible, cross and a picture of patron saint of the school are symbols of the gift of faith which is so generously shared in this Catholic School.
* Flowers signify the beauty of the world in which we live. As a school community we learnt to appreciate and respect this great beauty.
* Shoes remind us that we are taking a new step on our journey of life.

1. **Candle Reflection**

**Reader:** During our time at school at (*insert school name*) our talents have been nurtured. We have always been encouraged to let our light shine for all the world to see.

**Reader:** Each year, from Prep through to Grade 6, our teachers and friends have helped us to discover our special gifts and to develop these further.

Today we remember what special significance each year held for us.

**Reader:** We light the pink candle in memory of our first year at school.

In Foundation, we learnt how to listen.

**Reader:** We light the blue candle in memory of Grade One.

In our second year of school, we discovered how much fun it is to learn.

**Reader:** We light the green candle to remember Grade Two.

In Grade 2 we discovered new friendships and how to be a good friend.

**Reader:** We light the purple candle in memory of Grade 3.

In Grade 3 we learnt how to say sorry and to forgive and forget the hurts caused by others.

**Reader:** We light the yellow candle in memory of Grade 4.

In Grade 4, through preparing for our first Eucharist, we learnt to be more and more like Jesus.

**Reader:** We light the red candle in memory of Grade 5.

In Grade 5 we learnt how to face and conquer our fears.

**Reader:** And we light the cream candle in memory of our seventh and final year at (*insert school name*).

In Grade 6 we have learnt to be ambassadors of our school and we acknowledge how we have grown in our journey of faith in our seven years of primary schooling.

**Reader:** May the fire of faith that has been ignited in our hearts during our time at (*insert school name*), continue to grow as we face and accept the many challenges that life has in store for us, as we leave the familiar and move towards the future unknown.

# Opening Prayer Suggestions

**1.**

Celebrant: Let us pray,

We thank you Lord God, for the gifts of life and of love. We thank you for the gifts of learning and of wisdom. We ask that you will always help us use these gifts in your service. Give us a lively faith in you that will be stronger than any doubts we may have; a hope that will take us through the hard times of our lives; and a love that is sincere as we give ourselves in your service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

**2.**

Celebrant: Let us pray,

Creator God, we give thanks to you for the many gifts we receive through the Holy Spirit, and we pray now that you will strengthen us to use these gifts as we go out into the world in your service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

# First Reading Suggestions

1. Isaiah 60:19-22

A reading from the book of Isaiah

You will no longer need the sun to light your days nor the moon to brighten your nights because God himself will be your everlasting light. The Lord will be your glory always, never set like the sun nor wane like the moon. God will make you holy and give you what your heart desires. For you are God’s garden, planted by his hands, blooming to his glory. The least among you will become great; the smallest of you, mighty. The Lord will do this for you with power and purpose. And may God bless you and keep you all the days of your lives.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

1. Ecclesiastes 3:1-12

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw stones away, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear and a time to sew;

a time to keep silent, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

I know there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

1. Jeremiah 31:3; 29:11-14

A reading from the book of Jeremiah

I have loved you with an everlasting love and so I shall maintain my faithful love for you. Yes, I know what plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord, plans for peace, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. When you call to me and come and pray to me, I shall listen to you. When you search for me, you will find me: when you search whole heartedly for me, I shall let you find me.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

1. Numbers 6: 22 – 27

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘Say this to Aaron and his sons: “This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.”

This is how they are to call down my name on the people of Israel, and I will bless them.’

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

1. 1 Corinthians 12: 31; 13: 1- 8

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

1. 1 Corinthians 12: 4 – 7, 13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit.

There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things.

Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.

The body of Christ has many different parts, just as any other body does.

But God's Spirit baptised each of us and made us part of the body of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Al: Thanks be to God.

1. 1 John 4: 7 – 12

A reading from the first letter of John

My dear friends, we must love each other.

Love comes from God, and when we love each other, it shows that we have been given new life.

We are now God’s children, and we know him.

God is love, and anyone who doesn’t love others has never known him.

God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life.

Real love is not our love for God, but his love for us.

God sent his Son to be the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

# Responsorial Psalm Suggestions

1. Psalm 18:13, 28, 49.

**Response –O Lord, your light takes away the darkness**.

The Lord thundered from the sky;

And the voice of the most high was heard. *R*

O Lord, you give me light;

You dispel my darkness. *R*

And so I praise you among the nations;

I sing praises to you. *R*

1. Psalm 63:1-3

**Response- All the nations hope in you**

God, you are my God, and I hope for you.

My whole being desires you;

like a dry, worn-out, and waterless land,

my soul is thirsty for you. *R*

Let me see you in the sanctuary;

let me see how mighty and glorious you are. *R*

Your constant love is better than life itself,

and so I will praise you. *R*

1. Psalm 100

**Response- The Lord made us, we belong to him.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

Come into his presence with singing. *R*.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. *R*.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

And his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. *R*.

For the Lord is good;

His steadfast love endures forever,

And his faithfulness to all generations. *R*.

# Gospel Acclamation and Gospel Suggestions

**1.**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

“I am the light of the world,” says the Lord.

Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 4:14-16

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: “You are like a light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one would light a lamp and put in under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lamp stand where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

**2.**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Lord heals those who place their hope in him.

Alleluia

Gospel Mark 10:46-52

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho and as Jesus was leaving with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, son of David! Take pity on me!”

Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, take pity on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called the blind man. “Cheer up!” they said. “Get up, he is calling you.”

He threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

“Teacher,” the blind man answered, “I want to see again.”

“Go,” Jesus told him, “your faith has made you well.”

At once he was able to see and followed Jesus on the road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

**3**.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Come and listen, and I will tell what great things God has done for me.

Alleluia

Gospel John 15:9-17

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. “I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

“You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

“You did not choose me but I chose you.

And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

**4.**

Gospel Matthew 6:25-34

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Don’t worry about having something to eat, drink, or wear.

Isn’t life more than food or clothing?

Look at the birds in the sky!

They don’t plant or harvest.

They don’t even store grain in the barns.

Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them.

Aren’t you worth more than birds?

“Can worry make you live longer?

Why worry about clothes?

Look how the wild flowers grow.

They don’t work hard to make their clothes.

But I tell you that Solomon with all his wealth was not as well clothed as one of them.

God gives such beauty to everything that grows in the fields, even though it is here today and thrown into a fire tomorrow.

He will surely do more for you!

Why do you have such little faith?

“Don’t worry and ask yourselves,

‘Will we have anything to eat?

Will we have anything to drink?

Will we have clothes to wear?’

Only people who don’t know God are always worrying about such things.

Your father in heaven knows that you need all of these.

But more than anything else, put God’s work first and do what he wants.

Then all other things will be yours as well.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

# Prayer of the Faithful Suggestions

**1.**

Celebrant: God's word tells us to patiently await all the good things that the Savior brings. With confidence, we make our needs known to God.

1. For the support of our parents throughout the years. We hope that they know how much we appreciate them. We pray they know how important they are to us.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For the staff of (*insert school name*). We would like to thank them for their guidance and support throughout these memorable years. We also pray for the students, may we be ambitious in our work, content in everything we do and always have hope in our futures.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For the friends we have made during our years in (*insert school name*). We pray that we may always carry with us, good memories of our school friends.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. That we may always keep the light of hope in our hearts. With each new day that comes and every step that we take, may we always remember the true essence of the human spirit, that is hope.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For those dear to us who are in your keeping Lord. Our lives are better for having known them and we are grateful for that. We pray with gratitude in our hearts, for all they have contributed to our lives.
2. Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

Celebrant: God of life, in your goodness, you have come into our lives and invited us to walk in your ways. We ask you to lead our Grade 6 students to know and love you even more as they begin their secondary education.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

**2.**

Celebrant: As we celebrate this time of Graduation, we now pray in thanksgiving as well as for their future.

1. For Pope Francis, Bishop Greg, and Father----. May they continue their work in guiding us on a faithful journey to the Lord.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For the community of (*insert school name*) that they will always be welcoming and supportive of each other. We pray they may continue to follow Jesus and learn to place their trust in God.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For the Grade 6 students who are graduating. May we respond with enthusiasm and experience success in the challenges we face in Secondary School.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For all the teachers who have helped us during our seven years at Primary School. May they continue to challenge and encourage the children they teach.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For all those who are experiencing poor health, that God may comfort and support them through this time. We also pray for those who have died within our school and Parish community this year, especially ……

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Father, listen to these prayers and strengthen the hope of your children. We ask this through Christ the Lord.

**All:** Amen

**3.**

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, you have come into our lives and walked with us on our journey. With trust and confidence, we place our needs before you.

1. For Pope Francis, Bishop Greg, and Father----. May they be given the strength and courage to serve the Church.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For our parents who have given us their love and support. May they be guided, strengthened and blessed as they continue to nurture us.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For all our teachers at (*insert school name*) who have guided us through our school years. May they be blessed as they continue their significant vocation of education

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For all of the students of Year Six who are graduating tonight. May we continue to grow as responsible young people, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, we place before you these needs and those deep within our hearts. We make our prayer through Christ your Son.

**All:** Amen

**4.**

Celebrant: Dear friends, today marks a special time in the lives of these children before us. Let us now pray to our loving God, in whom we place our trust.

1. For Pope Francis, Bishop Greg, and Father---- and all priests in the Diocese of Sale. May they be blessed and guided by the Holy Spirit as they continue your work in the community.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For the teachers and staff of (*insert school name*) who have passed on to us their love of learning. May they continue the good work that they do with all the children they teach.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. That the mystery of Jesus’ birth may bring freedom, peace, comfort and joy to those who are oppressed, hungry, sick, lonely and those who mourn.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For blessings on our parents who have guided us through our primary school years. May they feel your love within their hearts.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For all the children of (*insert school name*); may they continue to grow as disciples who value the gifts of friendship, care and compassion.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

1. For the Year Six children who are going off to secondary school next year. May our journey be one of love, compassion and doing what God requires of us in this world.

Lord hear us.

**All:** Lord hear our prayer.

Celebrant: God our Father, listen to these prayers which we make in the spirit of thanksgiving and hope for the future. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

# Offertory Hymn Suggestions:

Gifts- Jane Mitchell

We come to your Table (Offertory Version)- Jane Mitchell

# Communion Hymn Suggestions:

We are the Body of Christ- Andrew Chinn

We Come to your Table (Communion Version)- Jane Mitchell

The Eucharist Song- Jane Mitchell

# Concluding Prayer Suggestions

Celebrant:

Lord Jesus, our brother and Saviour,

You have promised to be present among us

Whenever we come together in your name.

Remain with us as we gather to celebrate all we have achieved

Through your inspiration

And all we have accomplished

With your saving help.

Jesus, we praise you

For you are Lord for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen

# Blessing for Graduates Suggestions

**1**.

Grade 6 students of 20--, nurtured by the love of your parents, inspired by the guidance of your teachers, and bound by the precious gifts of friendship, you have already been blessed. As we stand proudly in the light of your achievements, we pray that you may continue to grow in mind and heart, in wisdom and compassion, in faith and gentleness.

Lord, enable these graduates to see clearly that they can choose a meaningful life, that they must dare to dream, and above all, that they are dearly loved. And, as we send them off to continue their journey in post-primary schools, may they be truly blessed.

We ask this in the name of the Lord.

**All:** Amen

**2**.

May you be blessed as you go on your way.

May you be guided in peace.

May you be blessed with health and joy.

May this be our blessing, to you.

May you be sheltered by the wings of peace.

May you be kept in safety and in love.

May grace and compassion find their way to every soul.

May this be our blessing, to you.

**All:** Amen

**3.**

Song: My Wish For You- Jane Mitchell

**4.**

Song: Song of Blessing- Michael Mangan

**5**.

Song: A Parent’s Prayer- Andrew Chinn

**6.**

Song: An Irish Blessing- Andrew Chinn

# Recessional Hymn Suggestions:

In the Footsteps of Jesus- Andrew Chinn

Justly, Tenderly, Humbly- Michael Mangan

Moving On, Reaching Out- Michael Mangan

Shine Among Them- Andrew Chinn

African Blessing- Andrew Chinn

We Shine- Jane Mitchell

Rise Up -Jane Mitchell

Lord We Hear Your Call- Jane Mitchell

Go Make a Difference - Angrisano & Tomaszek