

Suggested form of service for pupils, teachers, parents, and clergy to celebrate and give thanks for all Matriculants.

Opening Hymn/ Chorus:

Introduction and Greeting:

We gather to celebrate and give thanks for all matriculants, especially those who have gathered here. It is indeed a time to remember and give thanks for many years of schooling, but also to pray for minds to be well rested, bodies energized, and their spirits inspired for the forthcoming exam. As we gather, we think about each individual journey. We reflect with gratitude and recall that God is merciful. We offer God our hopes and leave any regrets with God.

The Lord Be with You
And also with you

We are brothers and sisters together in the presence of God,
We carry the light of Christ.

We join in unity with other matriculants across the Diocese
We carry the faith within our hearts

We now invite our matriculants, educators and parents to come forward and present their symbols (These symbols are placed on a table; in position, visible to all)

Procession of Symbols: (Other symbols may be added or these replaced)

1st Matriculant carries a candle and place it on the table; then say:

Our candle represents Jesus, the light of the world. It reminds us that Jesus is always present in our world no matter the challenge, circumstance, or place. As we prepare to leave High School, we are reminded that we are asked to be the light of Christ for others wherever we may go. At this time, enlighten our minds, help us to make the right study choices and to grow in knowledge and understanding

Parent carries a Bible and place it on the table; then say:

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. We ask for the gift of perseverance as our children prepare for the exams. For them to be sustained in their efforts. Keep them faithful to their studies and help them to be mindful that God will supply all their needs.

2nd Matriculant carries a School tie or blazer and place it on the table; then say:

We are grateful for the many gifts and blessings we have received through being part of this school community. We ask for the gift of hope. Help all to see beyond the exams that you are the word unto our feet and a light unto our path

A teacher carries a globe or a map and place it on the table; then say:

This 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.

The candle is lit, and the congregation pray together:

God, our Father, we know you are always with us. We know that each of us here is connected to your love. May we continue to be guided by the light of Christ in everything we do. Make us truly thankful for the gifts of our own personalities, for the gift of people who guided us, especially our parents, teachers, family, and all others who supported us and helped us to grow. May we be your presence in the world in how we relate to others, and in all that we say and do. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Penitence

Lord Jesus, you came to show us how to live and how to love.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us for the times we have not loved and lived as God would want us to.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You are the Word of God, made flesh, who lives within each one of us.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

For the occasions when we've wasted time and not been focussed on our studies...

Forgive us Lord and help us use time better.

For the times when we've neglected ourselves – time for rest, recovery, prayer, silence and to stay in touch with those who matter...

Forgive us Lord and help us care better for ourselves.

For the times when we have not honoured others, when we have been dismissive, disrespectful, ugly, slanderous, bitter, and vengeful to our Peers...

Forgive us Lord and help us honour ourselves and others.

For the times when we have acted without thinking, when we have disgraced ourselves, our families, our friends and not honoured the goals and values we have set for ourselves...

Forgive us, Lord and restore us to new grace in you.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Collect

Eternal God, you are the source of all wisdom and you want us to know and love you: bless those who teach and those who learn that in humility they may rejoice in the knowledge of your truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Liturgy of the Word *(Readings to possibly be assigned to matriculants)*

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 12 – 25

Psalm 16: *(To be read antiphonally)*

Hymn/ Chorus:

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:18 – 22

Homily

Prayers of intercession: (These may be prayed by parents, educators and matriculants)

In this time of anxiety, grant our students peace of mind, quiet any distress and bless them with abundance of patience as they soak up knowledge, memorize facts and as they read and write.

Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love.

As we give thanks for our years of study and friendship, we bring our hopes and dreams for your blessing

Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love.

As we thank you for the gift of learning growth and development of our young people, we pray they may persevere through the massive to-do lists and the busy schedules, and help them to keep their eyes fixed upon you, throughout this period of preparation and examinations

Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love

As we say goodbye with thanks, and as we prepare to move forward on our journey,

Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love.

As Matriculants study and prepare for the exams, give them grace to apply their minds, press on amidst the stresses and challenges and at the end reap the fruits of their hard work.

Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love

Bless and guide parents, educators, invigilators and those responsible for the marking of scripts.

Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love

When they discover a new world of possibilities, as they form a new community of friends,

Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love.

As the Matriculants prepare to enter the job-market; go on to tertiary studies or taking a gap year, grant them wisdom to make good decisions and therein make a valuable contribution to society, community-life, and the broader development of our nation.

Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love

**Send down your blessings, O God, on all who teach and all who learn. Help them to finish strong and may they do all this for the glory of your name alone
In your name we pray. Amen**

All pray together

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.....

Peace Greeting

And so we offer the sign of peace and in our hearts pray for peace everywhere
The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you

Hymn/ Chorus:

Blessing

All matriculants are invited to gather around the altar rail...

Matriculants pray together:

God of Our lives, you are challenging us to follow you into the future, inviting us to continue to learn, to accept new challenges, to discover new ways to care, new ways to touch the hearts of all. When we are fearful of the unknown, give us courage. When we worry that we are not up to the task, remind us that you would not call us if you did not believe in us. When we get tired or disappointed with the way things are going, remind us that you can bring change and hope out of the most difficult situations. Bless, O Lord the doors we open, the thresholds we cross, the roads that lie before us. Go with us as we embark on this journey.

Students are invited and have their palms anointed

(You may use a cotton bud or cotton pad for the anointing)

Music may be played during this time

At the end the presider prays the following concluding prayer:

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon these your children. Inspire them to do their very best as they prepare for the exams. You have promised to hear those who call upon you. Give to us and to all people what is best for us, so that we may glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen

(You may use a cotton bud or cotton pad for the anointing)

Music may be played during this time

Conclusion

Blessing: The Words of the Holy Spirit to us

When you're lonely, I offer you love
When you're down, I offer you joy
When you're searching, I offer you direction
When you're happy, I offer you contentment
When things get complicated, I offer you simple beauty
When you're angry, I offer you an inner calm
When things look empty, I offer you hope
When you're confused, I offer you understanding
When you're relaxed, I offer you an inner silence
But most importantly of all I give you my greatest gift
The gift of my gentle presence
That I'm with you right now,
During this special day,
During the week,
During the years ahead,
I'm with you always.

Author unknown

May God who calls us and helps us to change our lives, bless us all on our journey ahead...

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds and knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen

Recessional Hymn/Chorus

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen