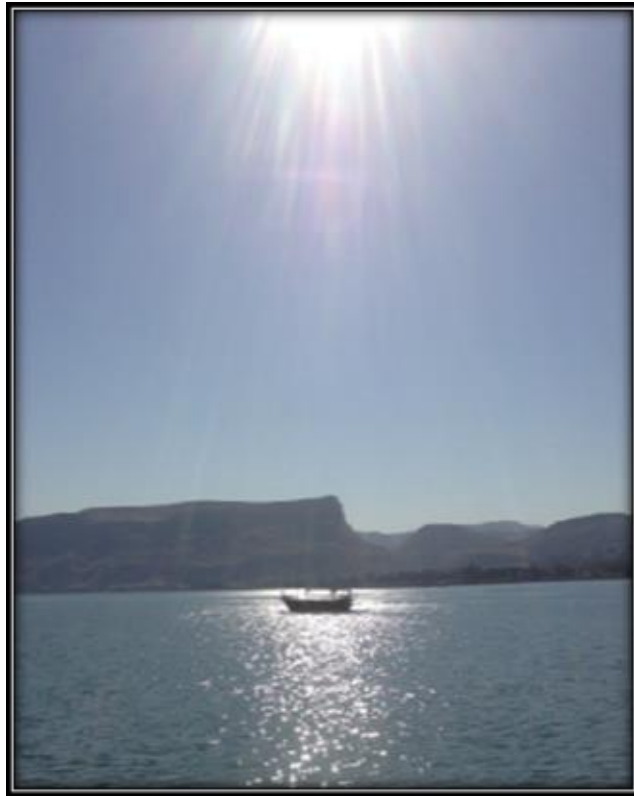


# Year 13 Leavers' Celebration

Preparing for University



By the Sea of Galilee Jesus said to his disciples,  
"Come Follow Me"

Matthew 4:19

# In celebration of your time at [Name of School] and preparing for university

Welcome: Member of staff.

Gathering music: [School's preference]

(Use of symbols as appropriate: The School banner, saint's statue, light candles, form books etc)

**Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

**Priest/ Deacon:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

**Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain:**

As we start our service we think about the time that we have spent at ..... We think about each individual journey. We reflect with gratitude and recall that God is merciful. We can then offer him our hopes and leave any regrets with Him.

## Penitential Rite

**Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain:**

Lord Jesus, you came to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven: Lord have mercy

All: Lord have mercy

**Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain:**

You came that we might know the Father through you; Christ have mercy

All: Christ have mercy

**Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain:**

You are the Word of God, made flesh, who lives within us. Lord have mercy

All: Lord have mercy

## The Liturgy of the Word:



First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 12 – 25    Head Boy

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the community of Thessalonica.

We beg you, our friends, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves. We urge you, our friends, to warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus. Do not restrain the Holy Spirit; do not despise inspired messages. Put all things to the test: keep what is good and avoid every kind of evil. May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being spirit, soul, and body free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you will do it, because he is faithful. Pray also for us, friends.

The word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God

### Psalm.

Psalm 16: Year 13 student

Protect me, O God; I trust in you for safety.

All the good things I have come from you.

**All:** How wonderful are your gifts to me, how good they are!

You Lord are all I have and you give me all I need;

My future is in your hands.

**All:** How wonderful are your gifts to me, how good they are!

I am so thankful and glad and feel completely secure,

You protect me from all my fears.

**All:** How wonderful are your gifts to me, how good they are!

You show me the path that leads to life;

Your presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure forever.

**All:** How wonderful are your gifts to me, how good they are!

## Gospel Acclamation

All: Alleluia, alleluia

"Come, follow me," Jesus said,  
"and I will send you out to fish for people."  
Alleluia, alleluia.



Priest/ Deacon:

The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 4: 18-22

All: Glory to you, O Lord

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him

Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Homily: Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain

**Prayers of intercession:** Year 13 student

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

Response: Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love.

As we say goodbye with thanks,

As we prepare to move forward on our journey,

Response: Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love.

When we discover a new world of possibilities,

As we form a new community of friends,

Response: Jesus, help us to be witnesses to your love.

**Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain:** Let us pause in silence to reflect on the words of scripture and the thoughts we have shared. As we set out on this next stage of our own personal journey let us pray together a prayer taught by Jesus to those first disciples and just as powerful for us today.

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

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.



**Priest/ Deacon:**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:** And with your spirit.

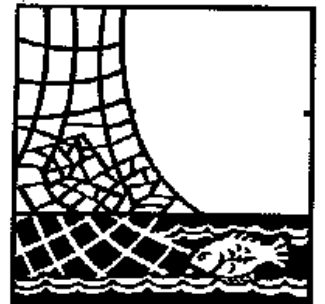
**Sign of Peace:** We offer the sign of peace and in our hearts pray for peace everywhere.

## Form Tutor Cards:

Priest/ Deacon will bless our form tutor cards and the Tutors will be invited to come forward to receive them.

**Reflective Song:** [School's preference]

**Reading:** Head Girl



## Mission in Our Time and Place

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 go sharing the journey.

based on Kathy Galloway. *Growing Hope* Iona Community 2005

Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain

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



Final hymn: [School's preference] and School Prayer.

Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain: Commissioning of students preparing for university

Our final blessing will be in the form of an action. You are invited (in pairs) to come forward and Priest/ Deacon/ Lay Chaplain will bless you. Year 13, we ask for a blessing as you prepare to go to university. (If present -Year 12, you will be blessed for the year ahead and the witness that you can be in our school community, in your family and in the wider community.) We remain silent and prayerful for this final blessing. Formal Blessing, or as appropriate:

May the Lord bless you and shine his light on you. May he strengthen your weakness and inspire you with joyful hope for the journey ahead with your companions. May he guide you in times of trouble and show you the path of life.

Priest/Deacon: May God bless you, the Father, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

May God bless you on this day and keep you  
safe in his care.

May he bless your study, your friendships  
and your family.

And as the road opens up before you  
into a future of hope and possibility  
St N. pray for us all

Holy Bible: NIV.