

ASSEMBLY TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Leader: With this assembly let us mark the beginning our new school year. We pray for each other and for the whole school. We ask God to help us in our study, our friendships, our sports, our hobbies and with everything that is part of school life. We might feel anxious about the coming year or we might feel very confident and glad to start again. No matter how we feel we put ourselves before God and ask for his help in the year ahead.

Reader 1: *A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Ch.4:4-8)*

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is very near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, with prayer and thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *This is the word of the Lord.*

Response: Thanks be to God

Leader: And so we make our prayers to God at the beginning of our new school year. The Response to each of the prayers is: *Lord graciously hear us.*

Reader 2: Look after us, Lord, during the coming year; help us live in this school as a Christian community. *Lord hear us.*

Response: *Lord graciously hear us.*

Reader 3: We pray for all who work in our school; bless them and their families. *Lord hear us.*

Response: *Lord graciously hear us.*

Reader 4: We pray for all past students of St Mary's, especially those who left in June, that they may find happiness and fulfilment in their chosen careers. *Lord hear us.*

Response: *Lord graciously hear us.*

Reader 5: We pray for all our loved ones gone before us in faith. We ask you Lord to give comfort and hope to those of us who have lost loved ones. *Lord hear us.*

Response: *Lord graciously hear us.*

Reader 6: We pray for all who are new in our school, pupils and staff; may they be happy here and find friends. *Lord hear us.*

Response: *Lord graciously hear us.*

Reader 7: We pray for peace in our world. Lord grant that all our words and actions will reflect the love of Christ in our hearts and let us be peacemakers where ever we go. *Lord hear us.*

Response: *Lord graciously hear us.*

Leader: And now together we pray to Mary, our Mother and seek her blessing on our new school year.

All: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee,
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Reader 8: Reflection: What will this year bring?

What will this year bring?
We do not know.
It will likely bring its usual times of work and play,
Experiences of success and failure,
All the things that are part of school life.

It is a new beginning,
The planting of a seed that will grow for a year,
The seed of fruit that will blossom in times to come.
It offers new hope,
Hope for good work, for successful results,
For friendship, for fun, for learning.

In this coming year, may there be learning, prayer and fun.
May there be hard work, faith and friendship.
May no-one in this school be lonely;
may no-one be left out in class;
may no-one suffer because of how others here treat them.

As we begin this new year in hope, in prayer and in friendship,

may God begin it with us, be with us during it, and successfully bring it to its conclusion

Leader: And now we will have our Concluding Prayer:

Lord, You have created each of us in your own image and likeness. You have made us equal and great in your sight. You have blessed us with many talents and abilities. Guide us Lord, as we begin this new school year, not to be anxious about the months ahead, but to place all our trust in you. Help us each day to share your love, kindness and compassion with all those we meet. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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