

Fully Alive in Christ

CSW 2025 LITURGICAL SERVICE

Catholic Schools Alive in Christ

Welcome

Student 1 (St J+B)

Good morning, everyone. It is great so many of you have gathered to launch CSW 2025. We gather as a Diocesan Faith School Community to reflect, pray and celebrate all that Catholic Schools represent and achieve as centres of Faith, of Hope and Love. Here today we hope to deepen our friendship with Jesus and so draw life in its fullness from Him

Student 2

Our schools are places and communities with service as our key mission and value. Each of us has a special role to play and this annual gathering helps refresh our commitment to live by the values of the Gospel. Jesus is truly our Teacher, our Master. In Jesus and because of Jesus we are fully alive.

Leader

Archbishop Eamon and Fr Sheehan and Fr Clarke will be led by the Samba Group from St Paul's as they join us all.

We stand and we now sing our opening hymn. (Choir) Do join our music and movements as we sing our hymn "Lord of the Dance".

We will now welcome dancers from New Row St. Patrick's Primary School, so we sit to enjoy them, please, raise your voices and follow the actions to bring real joy to our celebration.

Opening Hymn

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the

earth,

At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain

Dance, then, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,

And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,

But they would not dance and they would not follow me;

I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;

They came to me and the dance went on.

Refrain

I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,

The holy people said it was a shame;

They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;

And they left me there on a cross to die.

Refrain

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;

It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;

They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,

But I am the dance and I still go on.

Refrain

They cut me down and I leapt up high,

I am the life that'll never, never die;

I'll live in you if you'll live in me;

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1yzqsWxcBY&list=PLnir72zWkEJSYQGQJS_TT0pRW6BR-HgpO&index=3

Archbishop Eamon

As Catholic Schools and as Servants of the Gospel we gather to celebrate as a Faith Community today. Probably for most of us the first prayer we learned was how to bless ourselves. As we begin our prayer together today we pray and bless ourselves again

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

Peace be with you R/ And with your spirit.

Opening prayer reflection (Archbishop)

In our Catholic schools, as we study and look to Jesus Christ as our friend, saviour and teacher. We grow into a greater understanding of the depth of Christian life and how to live fully alive in Christ through our care and service. Jesus served every person regardless of creed, background, faith, social status or age. He put faith into action by

showing all those around him how our Heavenly Father (Abba) is compassionate, loving and forgiving. Jesus didn't just talk about His faith; He lived it. We are called by faith to go into the world to share this love of Abba God with all those we meet.

Each person, at every age, is called to become Christ for others by serving every person with a humble heart and with a generous spirit.
Lord, help us as we work hard daily to live this in all we do and try to be Amen.

Leader.,

We all sing with the choir "Go make a difference in the world".

2. Hymn Go make a difference in the World

Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence we can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world

First Verse:

We are the salt in the earth, called to let the people see
The love of God in you and me
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden, but be seen
Go make a diff'rence in the world

Chorus

Second Verse:

We are the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in need
The face of God for all to see
We are the spirit of hope, we are the voice of peace.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2vYFN1YNik>

Leader: We stand now as we listen to our Gospel Reading read by our Parish clergy

A reading from St Matthew's Gospel.

R/ Glory to you Lord.

Jesus said "Your lives are like salt among the people. But if you, like salt, become bland, how can your 'saltiness' be restored? Flavourless salt is good

for nothing and will be thrown out and trampled on by others.

"Your lives light up the world. For how can you hide a city that stands on a hilltop? And who would light a lamp and then hide it in an obscure place? Instead, it's placed where everyone in the house can benefit from its light. So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that your commendable works will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord

R/ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader 1.

Three Schools will now explain to us how they as living communities, try to be fully alive in their everyday school lives.

Each school will place a symbol of this service at the front of the Altar.

Speaker Reads and then explains Symbol

Leader Primary 1 Presentation P.S.

Leader Primary 2 St Joseph's P.S. Madden

Leader .Post Primary St. Josephs' College.

Leader

**Students from St. John the Baptist's College will now act for us tableaux based on our next hymn
We all sing together:**

3, Hymn 10,000 Reasons

*Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

*Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before*

O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Leader: We will listen to a harp Instrumental
Reflection accompaniment (St. Catherine's College
) as three students from Dean Maguirc College
read a prayer pledging our commitment

CALLED TO SERVE and LIVE LIFE FULLY

*Abba Father, we come into your loving presence
each with our own story & experiences. You reach
out to hug and welcome us. Source of all life and
wonder, you are a God who dances, creates and
laughs. You take delight in each and every one of us.
Jesus speaks of You as "Abba, Daddy", knowing the
number of hairs on our heads and delighting in
answering our prayers and needs. St. Theresa of
Avila tells us we are charged with being His voice,
face, hands and feet. Help us to know Jesus and to
recognise Him in the faces of those we meet in
daily life. "As I have done for you, you must do for
others". He cared so much for all who came to Him,
so may we now reach out and serve Him in those
who need His love, healing and understanding. Help
us to love especially those we find hard or difficult
to know or like. Called to be His servants, may we
become fully alive as we follow Jesus as servants of
the Gospel and Kingdom. Amen*

Leader We invite Archbishop Eamon to speak to us
now.

Leader: Prayers in response to our sharing today
follow now. Each prayer is linked to the CSW 25
theme. Our readers are students from Bellurgan
National School. We will all sing the last line of the
Taizé chant 'O Lord Hear my prayer' after each
prayer.

O Lord Hear my prayer, O Lord Hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me.
O Lord Hear my prayer, O Lord Hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

Prayer 1 We become alive by our care and service in our School Community (Bellurgan NS)

Lord, you have blessed us by giving us our school
community of faith with the call to live fully alive in
service to all we meet. Help us to always make the
most of this precious gift of life in its fullness as
we journey together.

Response sung Come and listen to me.

Prayer 2 We reach out in our community of Family and our Local community. (Bellurgan NS)

Lord, the Apostles asked you to deepen their faith.
As we journey together and reach out to others,
deepen our faith in your love and care, and help us
to see the face of the Risen Jesus in others, In so
doing may we live life in its fullness

Response sung Come and listen to me.

Prayer3 We are alive in our community of Friends (Mount St. Catherine's PS)

Lord, Jesus had friends who he loved to visit and
chat with like Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Like
Jesus, we draw support and strength from loyal and
good friends. Help us to be a true friend and to
share and give support to all we can daily.

Response sung Come and listen to me.

Prayer 4. We serve in Community in Faith (Holy Family P.S.)

Lord, Your Spirit lives in our hearts and speaks
quietly to us when we face choices. Help us listen
and be guided so as to be true followers of Jesus as
real Easter People. Help us to imitate the actions
of Jesus at His Last Supper and together let us be
like Him as true washers of feet seeking to serve
rather than be served.

Response sung Come and listen to me.

O Lord Hear my prayer, O Lord Hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord Hear my prayer, O Lord Hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

Archbishop Eamon: We thank God for the people
who love us and for all those who help us. As we
celebrate Catholic Schools' week 2025, we ask God

to bless all our school communities. May we live daily the example the Lord set for us all and as Easter People may we know Him through meeting Him daily in our love and our service for all we encounter. Through Christ our Lord Amen.

Leader: This year has been a very special anniversary of the birth and life of St. Brigid. We are honoured that she was born at Faughart in Co. Louth. So may of you will have visited her birthplace and shrine this year for we all share a huge respect and love for her. Brigid was a woman of faith, who lived her life in all of its fullness as she walked always with Jesus her Master. We think of her now as we sing her beautiful Hymn.

Hymn

Hymn to St. Brigid:

We sing a hymn to Brigid
Brigid brings the spring
Awakens all the fields and the flowers
And calls the birds to sing

All were welcome at her door
No one was turned away
She loved the poor, the sick and the sore
She helped them on their way

We sing a hymn to Brigid
Brigid brings the spring
Awakens all the fields and the flowers
And calls the birds to sing

She laid her cloak out on the ground
And watched it grow and grow
In wells and streams and fields of green
St. Brigid's blessings flow

We sing a hymn to Brigid
Brigid brings the spring
Awakens all the fields and the flowers
And calls the birds to sing

Leader: We invite Archbishop Eamon to bless these Arm Bands which remind us of our service today and the message that no matter what life brings our way "We are never alone "

Archbishop Eamon

Abba Father, We praise and thank you that we are so loved by You by Jesus and by the Holy

Spirit. When we struggle and find ourselves in hard places may these wristbands be a reminder to us that we are never alone. Bless these today and bless those who wear them knowing you hold us in and by your Hand always. We Bless these In your presence and name... + The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Students from St. John the Baptist Primary School will now lead us in our blessing. Let's join them in asking God to bless us for our continued journey. (Pause) We join with them in prayer.

May the Lord bless you and take care of you; *(Bring hands, head and body down into low bow, palms facing down).*

May the Lord be kind and gracious to you; *(Bring hands up above head level and stretch them outward with palms open).*

May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace. *(Bring palms together and bow head slightly).*

(Archbishop and Priests make the Sign of the cross as he prays)

May the Blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit come down upon you and remain with you now and always

All: Amen.

Leader

Before our closing Hymn we thank all of you for attending here today. We thank you for your charitable envelope donations which as usual will be used to support school projects in Africa.

The organising Group greatly appreciate all our schools who kindly participated in doing drama, music, prayers and readings.

We thank Archbishop Eamon for joining and leading us. We thank sincerely Fr Michael Sheehan, Parish Priest; Fr. Peter, Mr. Francis Hagan and the Parish here in Portadown for their welcome and for hosting our Liturgy today.

As you leave, we invite you to receive, wear and take home your wrist band to remind you of today and our time together.

Remember: You are never alone.

We stand now for our Closing Hymn "Live Alive "
Have a Safe journey home.

Live Alive:

I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive

Don't wanna live a lie
Don't wanna live a lie
I wanna live alive
And You make me alive

Don't want to just survive
Be safe but half alive
This little light of mine
This little spark divine
I'm gonna let it shine

I am letting go of every fear
I am letting go of every lie
I am taking hold of every dream
You place inside

I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive

Don't wanna live a lie
Don't wanna live a lie
I wanna live alive
And You make me alive

Alive, alive

There's danger up ahead
But I'm not running scared
You are the light of mine
You are the spark divine
You're gonna help me shine

There's a courage that is forged in pain
There's a purpose in the furnace flame
I will risk my heart a thousand times
To feel again
To feel again

I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive

Don't wanna live a lie
Don't wanna live a lie
I wanna live alive
And You make me alive

I am letting go of every fear
I am letting go of every lie
I am taking hold of every dream
You placed inside

There's a courage that is forged in pain
There's a purpose in the furnace flame
I will risk my heart a thousand times
To feel again

I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive
I wanna live alive

Don't wanna live a lie
Don't wanna live a lie
I wanna live alive
And You make me alive

Alive, alive
And You make me alive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5qZ7Pla8D0>