

'Our Lady Help of Christians' Navan Road

CEREMONY OF LIGHT

Parish Schools

Mary, Help of Christians Girls' School

Saint John Bosco Senior Boys' School

Monday 14th March 2022



Opening Prayer

God our lovely and loving Father, we are happy to gather in our parish church & in our homes to celebrate in this special way together our faith, hope and love in you.
Amen.

WORD OF GOD

God knows the importance of light, and how terrible it would be if there was none. So, he gave us light.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

In the beginning the world was all empty and everything was dark and gloomy, but God was there like the wind that blows over the sea. And God said: "Let there be light" and there was light! and that light was wonderful.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

**The Response is:
The Lord is my light and my help.**

ALL STAND FOR THE GOSPEL

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God! Praise to you
O Christ King of eternal Glory.**

Rev. Eamonn: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

ENTRANCE SONG

WELCOME ADDRESS



Rev. Eamonn

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden.

No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house.

In the same way, your light must shine in the sight of all people so that, when they see your good works, they will praise God and give him glory."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE HOMILY

Prayer of the Faithful

**All Say After Each Prayer:
Come O Creator Spirit Blest**

Hymn - Sung by Choir

SHARING THE LIGHT OF OUR FAITH

Rev. Eamonn:

We now come to the final part of the ceremony, the passing to you, young people, of the lighted candle, first accepted on your behalf by your parents on Baptism Day.

Deacon invites parents to light their candle

Parents, on the day you brought your children for Baptism, you professed your faith in God. You held a lighted candle in your hand and promised to pass on the faith it symbolised to your children.

Your children have now come to an age when they can speak for themselves and will speak words of commitment and faith. You have done well bringing your children to this point in life, in fulfilment of your promise to God.

The teenage years have just begun – I commend to you the tasks of maintaining a Christian atmosphere in your home, an atmosphere in which your young people can grow to maturity, secure in your love for them. I ask you to do this in the name of Jesus and the whole church.

I thank God for your faithfulness and ask him to bless you abundantly.

Parents' Prayer:

These are Daughters and Sons entrusted to us by God, to be loved and cherished, healed and helped, corrected and forgiven – to be led by us to the fullness of adulthood. May the Lord who entrusted them to us strengthen the love between us and help us in the important years ahead.

Young People's Prayer:

We thank you for all you have done for us in our lives. We thank you for all your love and for the sacrifices you have made for us. We thank you especially for the gift of faith in God – for having had us baptised and for bringing us up as Christians. Now we publicly say yes to God and accept your faith as our faith. We ask you to hand over to us now the lighted candle you accepted for us on Baptism Day – it is a symbol of the faith we share.

The Deacon invites parents to hand over the lighted candle to their child saying:

'Take this light of Christ, may it guide and guard you always'.

Parents' Prayer:

(All are invited to say at home)

We pass these lighted candles on to you. They are symbols of faith. This is the most precious gift we can ever give you. Guard this faith carefully, live as followers of Jesus,

and in time pass it on to your own children and through them to generations yet to be born. Enjoy and celebrate your faith with your parish community.

May the Holy Spirit fill you with his gifts on your Confirmation Day and bless you always. Walk always in God's light. Amen.

Teachers' Prayer:

We thank you for our students. We are blessed to work in partnership with parents and priests in preparing them for Confirmation and sharing ourselves with them. We pray for them now. Let this moment in their lives be a source of strength and blessing. Amen

You may now extinguish your candle.

CONFIRMATION PLEDGE

Children taking pledge repeat silently with Rev. Eamonn

Lord God, out of love of you and through concern for my family, my friends, my future happiness, and out of my wish to serve Your Son more generously, I promise, with your help, not to take alcoholic drink until I am eighteen years of age. And furthermore, I promise never to take harmful drugs of any kind. I make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

God our Father,

We entrust these young people into your loving care.

We ask your blessing on them and on their families.

Bless their teachers who have prepared them so well.

Guard them from all harm and keep them in the way of your Gospel. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Rev. Eamonn: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Rev. Eamonn: May Almighty God bless you, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Final Hymn- Sung by Choir