A Mass for Teachers and School Staff

at the Beginning of the New School Year

**Collect**

Father,

you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our teacher and guide,

by his words of truth and the example of his love.

As we gather to begin a new school year,

may we speak the truth of your creation to our pupils

and show them your love by our just actions and forgiving words.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

[Romans 12:2-9 NRSV]

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Brothers, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me, I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

[Psalm 32 Grail]

R/. **May your love be upon us, O Lord,**

 **as we place all our hope in you.**

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp;

with ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

O sing him a song that is new,

play loudly with all your skill.

R/. **May your love be upon us, O Lord,**

 **as we place all our hope in you.**

For the word of the Lord is faithful

and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right

and fills the earth with his love.

R/. **May your love be upon us, O Lord,**

 **as we place all our hope in you.**

By his word the heavens were made,

by the breath of his mouth all the stars.

He collects the waves of the ocean,

he stores up the depths of the sea.

R/. **May your love be upon us, O Lord,**

 **as we place all our hope in you.**

From the place where he dwells

he gazes on all the dwellers on the earth;

he who shapes the hearts of them all,

and considers all their deeds.

R/. **May your love be upon us, O Lord,**

 **as we place all our hope in you.**

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.

The Lord is our help and our shield.

In him do our hearts find joy;

we trust in his holy name.

R/. **May your love be upon us, O Lord,**

 **as we place all our hope in you.**

**Gospel**

[Matthew 28:16-20 NRSV]

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.

I am with you always, to the end of the age.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy gospel + according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Bidding Prayers**

Let us pray for [name of school] as we begin a new school year. May we build up a community of learning and compassion in which every member of staff and every pupil grows to be the person God calls them to be.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the teaching staff, that we may be inspiring to our pupils, filling them with awe at the world around them, and in the achievements of human kind.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the support staff, that by their dedication and efforts, our school may run smoothly and be a place of true learning and formation be created for our pupils.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Ley is pray for the families of our school community, that we may be true partners with parents who are the first and called to be the best educators of their children.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our pupils, and especially for those joining the school this week, that they may improve in living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

**Prayer Over the Offerings**

[Roman Missal 9th Sunday]

Trusting in your compassion, O Lord,

we come eagerly with our offerings to your sacred altar,

that, through the purifying action of your grace,

we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we celebrate.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Preface**

The Lord be with you. **And with your Spirit.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you bestow gifts suited to every season

and guide the governing of your Church in wonderful ways.

By the power of the Holy Spirit you come unfailingly to her aid,

so that, with a heart always subject to you,

she may never fail to seek your help in time of trouble

nor cease to give you thanks in time of joy,

through Christ our Lord.

And so, in company with the choirs of angels,

we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts . . .**

**Postcommunion Prayer**

[Roman Missal 9th Sunday]

Govern by your Spirit, we pray, O Lord,

those you feed with the body and blood of your Son,

that, professing you not just in word or in speech,

but also in works and in truth,

we may merit to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Renewal of Commitment to the Ministry of Teaching**

*This simple act of renewal may be done after communion (after the Postcommunion Prayer) or after the homily. All should be invited to stand.*

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,

that we might have life and have it to the full.

Do you commit yourself to live with integrity,

bringing your pupils joy and fulfilment in their lives?

**I do.**

God is the author of the universe,

creator and Lord of all we know.

Do you commit yourself to seeking God in all things,

to leading your pupils to an appreciation of the beauty of the universe,

of value for learning and discovery,

and of reverence for God’s creation?

**I do.**

Jesus is the pattern of our ministry:

serving others before considering self

and building up the Kingdom of God.

Do you commit yourself to the service of the young people placed in your care this year,

to instil in them respect for each other and for all men and women,

to encourage their own generous response to God’s call?

**I do.**

In his Son, God offers his people faith in their being,

hope in their future and love in their lives.

Do you commit yourself to bring faith, hope and love

into the lives of your pupils and of your colleagues?

**I do.**

Father,

bless us today as we renew our commitment

to serve your people as teachers of the young.

Renew our faith,

enlighten our minds,

restore our strength,

and grace us with the vision of your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



Jesuit Institute London

2017