



Closing Celebration for Catholic Schools Week 2015

Leader Welcome to everyone this morning as we come to the end of our week-long celebration of Catholic schools. Our school is rooted in Gospel values and this is obvious in all our words, our actions, our learning and particularly in our prayer time. At the beginning of Catholic Schools Week we lit a candle during our prayer time and so today we light that candle again, a reminder that God is always with us, round and about us, through us and in us.

Let us sing together our opening song

'Christ Be Beside Me', *Alive-O* 3, page 297

Leader Today we give praise and thanks for all who make our school a place where we learn how to be people who serve God with love, kindness, joy, truth and justice. We are encouraged and helped to become the best that we can be. One of the ways that we learn how to serve God is by listening to the Word of God. Let us take a moment to listen carefully to God's Word to us today:

Mark 4:30-32

What is God's kingdom like? What story can I use to explain it? It is like what happens when a mustard seed is planted in the ground. It is the smallest seed in all the world. But once it is planted, it grows larger than any garden plant. It even puts out branches that are big enough for birds to nest in its shade.

Leader Each one of us is like the mustard seed that Jesus talks about in the story. Each day we grow and learn here in school, at home and in the parish. Then we take all that we have learned and we help to spread the Good News of God's love by the way we show that love to all we meet, the way we treat others, with kindness, the way we share joyfully, the way we play our games, our truthfulness in all things, the way we pray, and the way we stand up for justice in our world. Everyone we meet learns from us and in this way God's kingdom grows bigger too.

Let us give thanks to God for all that we are and all that we have in the words that Jesus taught us:

Our Father/Ár nAthair

Closing Prayer

Loving God, thank you for all the opportunities to learn that we have; here in school, at home and in the parish community.

Thank you for all who help us to learn;

the staff at our school, our parents,

our families and friends,

our priests, parish workers and all the people in the community.

Help us to always be the best that we can be.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.