

Beginning of School Year Mass

Theme: *"Let Your Light Shine"*

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Hymn

"This Is the Day" (Grow in Love, 2nd Class, p. 40)

Alternative: *"We Come to Your Feast"* (Grow in Love, 5th/6th Class).

Greeting & Penitential Act

- Lord Jesus, you are our friend. Lord, have mercy.
- Lord Jesus, you show us how to love. Christ, have mercy.
- Lord Jesus, you are always with us. Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

If chosen, use the *Grow in Love Mass setting of the Gloria* (music and text provided in the programme for 3rd/4th Class onwards).

Opening Prayer

Loving Father, at the start of this new school year we thank you for our friends, teachers and families. Bless our diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, where St Brigid, St Conleth, St Laserian, St Fiacc, St Columbanus, and St Carlo Acutis shine with your light. Help us, through your Spirit, to let our own light shine brightly this year. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading



Isaiah 49:15–16 (adapted)

The Lord says:
“Can a mother forget her baby?
Can she stop loving the child she has carried?
Even if she could forget,
I will never forget you.
See, I have written your name
on the palm of my hand.”

The Word of the Lord.



All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm – *Psalm 118 (Grow in Love)*

Refrain (all):  “*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*” 

(Music and score in Grow in Love, 2nd Class, p. 58 and also repeated in older levels.)

Gospel Acclamation (Grow in Love Alleluia)

 Alleluia, alleluia! 

Jesus said: “*You are the light of the world; let your light shine for all to see.*”

 Alleluia! 

Gospel – *Matthew 5:14–16*

(Theme: “You are the light of the world” – matches Grow in Love’s “Christian Living” strand.)

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

1. For Pope Francis, Bishop Denis, our priests and parish communities. May they guide us in faith like St Laserian and St Conleth. Lord, hear us.
2. For our school community, pupils and teachers, that we may be kind like St Brigid and courageous like St Columbanus. Lord, hear us.
3. For children everywhere, that they may grow in faith and learning, and be inspired like St Carlo Acutis to love Jesus. Lord, hear us.
4. For peace in our world, that we may be peacemakers, as St Brigid was. Lord, hear us.
5. For those who are sick or sad, and for our loved ones who have died. May they be with God and the saints forever. Lord, hear us.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

- “*Take and Bless, O Lord*” (Grow in Love, 4th Class, p. 64).
Alternative: “*Circle of Friends*” (Grow in Love, 3rd Class).

Eucharistic Prayer for Children

Use the full *Eucharistic Prayer for Masses with Children II*

COMMUNION RITE

Our Father

Prayed or sung from *Grow in Love Mass Setting*.

Sign of Peace

Children share a gesture of peace.

Lamb of God

Sung version from *Grow in Love Mass Setting*.

Communion Hymns

- “*Do This in Memory*” (Grow in Love, 3rd Class, p. 62).
- “*Happy in the Presence*” (Grow in Love, 2nd Class, p. 74).

Prayer after Communion

God our Father, you feed us with the Bread of Life. As we begin this school year, help us to live as friends of Jesus. May St Brigid teach us kindness, St Conleth wisdom, St Laserian unity, St Fiacc creativity, St Columbanus courage, and St Carlo Acutis inspire us to love the Eucharist and use our gifts for God. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

Final Blessing

May God bless our diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. Through the prayers of St Brigid, St Conleth, St Laserian, St Fiacc, St Columbanus, and St Carlo Acutis, may our schools be places of light, learning, and love. And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Priest: Go and let your light shine, as the saints of Kildare & Leighlin did.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

"Go Now in Peace" (Grow in Love, 2nd Class, p. 82).

Alternative: *"This Little Light of Mine"* (Grow in Love, 1st Class, p. 72).