

**Leader**: As we come together at the start of this new school year let us take a moment to quieten our minds; to still our whole selves and to thank God for bringing us all safely here to this time of new beginning.

Let us be thankful for:

* The gift of a lovely summer.
* The time for refreshment and renewal over these past weeks.
* Each other.
* The students we will be privileged to teach during this coming year.

**Reader 1:** Last year Pope Francis said that:

“God is eternal newness” and he impels us “constantly to set out anew, to pass beyond what is familiar, to the fringes and beyond” (*Gaudete et Exsultate, 135*). With humility and trust in his grace, may you discern and set out on new paths for these new times. Be courageous and creative. (*Pope Francis Aug 26th 2018)*

**Leader:** We pause for a moment and consider the ways in which God is calling us to ‘set out anew’;We ask the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom to be able to discern new paths in our own work, especially at this time of huge curricular change and we pray for the gifts of courage and creativity to walk those new paths.

**Reader 2:** A reading from St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others… It is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Leader:**

We pray that during this school year the Holy Spirit will guide us:

**in our dealings with each other -** **that we will gain, wisdom and learn from one another, so that through the work to which you call us, we will be able to both animate and support those we meet each day.**

**We pray to the Lord.** ***R:*** Lord hear our prayer.

**Reader 1**

**In our teaching – that our students will be inspired with love of learning and that they will also inherit a deep faith, a passion for social justice and the courage to always make choices which will benefit our earth and all humanity. We pray to the Lord.**  ***R:*** *Lord hear our prayer.*

**Reader 2**

**In the example we give by our lives – that we will be respectful of those we encounter each day, colleagues, students, parents and all members of our school community. We pray to the Lord.**  ***R:*** *Lord hear our prayer.*

**Let us pray together** – **Our Father / Ár nÁthair**

**Leader:**

Father, we pray that during this school year, following the example of your Son, who both inspired and challenged those around him, we may use the gifts with which we have been blessed by your Holy Spirit to guide our students - not only in their academic learning, but also to truly understand their human dignity, to recognise the gifts you have given them and to grow in their relationship with you.

We ask all of this through Christ Our Lord. **Amen**



