

*[Please stand if you are able]*

### Welcome and Introduction

Good morning and welcome to this United Family Service.



In September, the Family Service is a special service as we mark the start of the school year and ask God's blessing on our work and our play in Booterstown National School, and in all the other schools and colleges which people from our parishes go to.

### Hymn No. 570 (Sing hosanna)

Give me oil in my lamp, keep my burning,  
give me oil in my lamp, I pray;  
give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
keep my burning till the break of day.

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King of Kings!  
sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King!*

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
give me joy in my heart, I pray;

give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
keep me praising till the break of day.

Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,  
give me peace in my heart, I pray;  
give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,  
keep me loving till the break of day.

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
give me love in my heart, I pray;  
give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
keep me serving till the break of day.

*[Please kneel or sit]*

### The Penitence - Saying Sorry

God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to show us how to live, how to love and how to care for others. There have been many times when we have not bothered about what we do, or how we do it, or what we say.

For the times we have been rude or horrible to others, including our mums and dads, our teachers and our friends.

***We are sorry Lord.***

For the times, we have been unkind, or not allowed others to join in our games or our play.

***We are sorry Lord.***

For the times we have not shared our things, and have been selfish.

***We are sorry Lord.***

For the times, when a little bit of kindness from us would have made a difference, and we didn't bother to make an effort, and have not cared.

***We are sorry Lord.***

God the Father understands that we are human, and we get things wrong, and so, when we are really sorry, and want to change from getting it wrong to getting it right, God forgives us and helps to make a fresh start. Thanks be to God. ***Amen.***

*[Please remain seated]*

### **The Collect of the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
teach us to offer ourselves to your service,  
that here we may have your peace,  
and in the world to come may see you face to face;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
***Amen.***

### **The Word of God**

*[Please sit]*

### **The First Reading - 2 Kings 2: 19-22 (adapted)**

*Adapted from The Message version of the Bible*

*The first reading is from the second book of Kings, chapter 2, verses 19 to 22.*

<sup>19</sup> The men of the city said to Elisha, "Look, master, this city is a nice place to live. You can see that. But the water is bad. That's why the land cannot grow crops."

<sup>20</sup> Elisha said, "Bring me a new bowl and put salt in it." So they brought it to him.

<sup>21</sup> Then Elisha went out to the spring of water and threw salt in it. He said, "This is what the Lord says: 'I have healed this water. From now on, it won't cause death. And it won't keep the land from growing crops.'" <sup>22</sup> The water was healed. It is still good today. It happened just as Elisha had said.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
***Thanks be to God.***

*[Please stand if you are able]*

### **Hymn No. 75 Thanks and Praise**

Jesu's love is very wonderful,  
Jesu's love is very wonderful,  
Jesu's love is very wonderful,  
O wonderful love!

So high you can't get over it,  
so low you can't get under it,  
so wide you can't get round it,  
O wonderful love!

## **The New Testament Reading -**

### **Matthew 5: 13-18 (adapted)**

*Adapted from The Message version of the Bible*

*The second reading is from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 5, verses 13 to 18.*

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing. It is thrown out.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven.

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*[Please stand if you are able]*

### **Hymn - God's Love is the Best Love**

*[Tune: Meet the Flintstones]*

God's love is the best love  
that the world has ever, ever known.  
Deeper than the deep sea;  
it's a love that only God has shown.  
Higher than the rockets out in space,  
wider than the total human race.  
God's love is the best love  
that the world has ever, ever  
could ever, ever,  
will ever, ever know.

God's love is the best love  
that the world has ever, ever known.  
Deeper than the deep sea;  
it's a love that only God has shown.  
Higher than the rockets out in space,  
wider than the total human race.  
God's love is the best love  
that the world has ever, ever  
could ever, ever,  
will ever, ever know.

## **The Sermon**

*[Please stand if you are able]*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us declare our faith in God.

***We believe in God the Father, who gives life and love to his children.***

***We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.***

***We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.***

***We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.***

*[Please remain standing if you are able]*

### **Kum Ba Yah (Tune Hymn No. 682 CH)**

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.  
O Lord, kum ba yah.

Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah.  
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah.  
Someone's praying, Lord, kum ba yah.  
O Lord, kum ba yah.

Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.  
Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah.  
O Lord, kum ba yah.

[Please kneel or sit]



## The Prayers

### For a new school year and new people in school

Dear God, thank you for another new year in school, and for all the things that we look forward to in the year ahead.

Thank you for all the new people who have started in school. We pray that they will be very happy in Booterstown National School and make lots of friends. **Amen.**

### To treat people well

Dear God, help us always to treat everyone with kindness and respect. Help us to think before we speak or act, so that we do not hurt others, and treat them in the way that we would like to be treated. **Amen.**

### For willingness to learn

Dear God, there is so much that we don't know, and we realise that we will never know everything, but help us to be eager to learn; help us to do our best and to be enthusiastic. This we ask, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### For all the parts of our school

Dear God, we thank you for everyone who is a part of our school: the pupils, the staff, the parents, the Parent-Teacher Association, the Board of Management. We thank you for those who give of their time, voluntarily, to the school and to school activities. Everyone is an important part of the school. **Amen.**

### For Good Relationships

Dear God, we healthy and positive relationships in our school, and we pray for respectful and peaceful relationships between nations and peoples, right across the world. We pray for an end to war and to conflict, and particularly, at this time, we pray for an end to the war in Ukraine and an end to the conflict in the Middle East. We pray for all those who have been affected by war, conflict and violence. This we ask, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,***

*thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom the power  
and the glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

*[Please stand if you are able]*

*[During the singing of this hymn, the offering will  
be received]*

### **Hymn No.658 - (Southcote)**

One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go;  
from the old things to the new  
keep me travelling along with you:

*And it's from the old that I travel to  
the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I  
learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me:

As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way I know:

Give me courage when the world is  
rough,

keep me loving though the world is  
tough;  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you:

You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the child in me;  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you:

*[Please kneel or sit]*

### **Blessing of Booterstown National School, the children's schoolbags, and the school year ahead**

Father of us all,  
bless all the pupils of Booterstown  
National School, and all those from  
these parishes who go to other places  
of learning.

We thank you for the beginning of  
this new school year:  
for new books and new ideas;  
for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons,  
and crisp blank pages waiting to be  
filled.

Bless the pupil's schoolbags, as they  
carry them to and from school each  
day; may their schoolbags be a sign to  
them that they have everything they  
need to learn and grow this year.  
May they be enthusiastic about  
learning, exploring and discovering all  
sorts of things.

Give them a sense of wonder and may  
they use all every opportunity to  
develop all their talents.

As well as studying all the subjects in the classroom, may they also learn to be kind, caring, honest and fair; to be the best kind of people that you want them to be. We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Father of us all,  
bless all the staff of Booterstown National School, and of all schools and colleges.

Guide them in their work.

Inspire their creativity.

Constantly renew their enthusiasm, and fill them with concern for every aspect of the life of the pupils, as they help them to grow in wisdom, age and grace.

We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Father of us all,  
bless all parents and guardians; those in Booterstown National School, and beyond.

Give them strength and patience.

May their homes be places of love, security and truth and let their children come to know of your love through their love for them.

We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

The Lord bless you and watch over you.

The Lord makes his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;

And the blessing of God almighty,

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and for evermore. **Amen.**

### **Hymn No. 701 (Jubilate Deo)**

*[Very slowly and quietly!]*

Jubilate, ev'rybody,  
serve the Lord in all your ways,  
and come before his presence singing:  
enter now his courts with praise.  
For the Lord our God is gracious,  
and his mercy everlasting.  
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo!

*[Little bit louder and little bit faster!]*

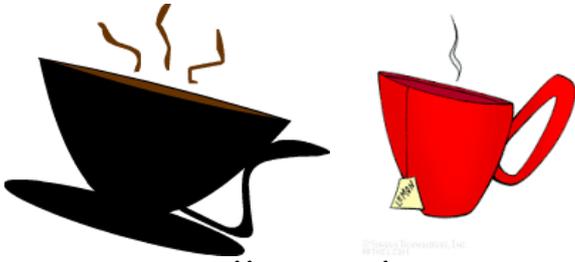
Jubilate, ev'rybody,  
serve the Lord in all your ways,  
and come before his presence singing:  
enter now his courts with praise.  
For the Lord our God is gracious,  
and his mercy everlasting.  
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo!

*[As loud as you can and as fast as you can!]*

Jubilate, ev'rybody,  
serve the Lord in all your ways,  
and come before his presence singing:  
enter now his courts with praise.  
For the Lord our God is gracious,  
and his mercy everlasting.  
Jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo! **OII!**

*In the interests of trying to keep all who come to our churches safe, please take away this service sheet and any other items that you may have brought with you or used in church this morning. Thank you.*

*Stay well and stay safe.*



You are all warmly invited to tea/coffee/juice in the Parish Centre after this Service. There will be donation boxes available to facilitate you making a donation to Ireland's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of the Hospice, should you wish to do so.



There will also be Hospice Coffee Mornings on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 10.00-12.00 in the Blackrock Hospice and St Thérèse's Parish Centre in Mount Merrion.

## FORTHCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion Service in St Thomas' Church

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church **NB Venue**

**10.30 NB Time United Harvest Thanksgiving Service in St Thomas' Church (live-streamed).**



**Special Preacher – The Very Rev. Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast. Stephen was the first rector of the Grouped Parishes of Booterstown and Carysfort with Mount Merrion 1995-1999.**

*We are again collecting non-perishable food items, toiletries, female hygiene products, new underwear and socks for the Alice Leahy Trust and the Capuchin Day Centre. Please bring your items to the United Harvest Thanksgiving at 10.30 in St Thomas' Church.*



## Harvest Decorating of St Thomas' Church

on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 10.00-12.00. Donations of flowers, fruit and vegetables to be dropped off before 10.30 please.

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## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

on Tuesdays

3.30pm—4.10pm

in the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St Philip and St James' Parish Centre  
Contact Irene on 087-2755423  
[irene.reid1052@gmail.com](mailto:irene.reid1052@gmail.com)

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## MOUNT MERRION

**SELECT VESTRY MEETING**  
THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024  
19.30 HOURS IN ST THOMAS' CHURCH

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## BOOTERSTOWN AND CARYSFORT

**SELECT VESTRY**  
THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2024  
19.30 HOURS  
*IN ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' CHURCH*



## Ad Hoc Choir

We will be singing at the United Harvest Thanksgiving in St Thomas' Church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 10.30.

Choir practice is in St Thomas' Church at 7pm on:  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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# Autumn Fair

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**12pm-3pm**



*Non-perishable items may be delivered to St Philip and St James' Church, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 7pm-9pm.*

*Perishable items (foods) may be delivered on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 7pm-9pm or before 11.00 on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024.*

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*For the Cakes Stall, we would appreciate if each family could cook, or donate, two items. But don't limit your cooking skills—this stall sells out quickly!*

## The Great PJ's Art Competition!

**Competition for primary school pupils – create a 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary card for St Philip and St James' Church.**

BRING YOUR CARD TO ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' CHURCH BY 8PM ON FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024. LATE ARRIVALS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS THE JUDGING IS AT 8PM OR YOU CAN GIVE IT TO GILLIAN (THE RECTOR) BEFORE THAT TIME.

ENTRY FEE €2

ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

*ENTRY FORMS TO BE RETURNED TO THE RECTORY IN THE GROUNDS OF ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' CHURCH BY WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024.*



## Return of the Sunday Clubs

Both of our Sunday Clubs resume in October. Any child (who has been toilet-trained) is very welcome to join the Sunday Club.

**St Thomas' Sunday Club** will meet at 9.30 in the Monk Gibbon Hall on the following Sundays:  
**13<sup>th</sup> October, 17<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

**St Philip and St James' Sunday Club** will meet at 11.00 in St Philip and St James' Parish Centre on the following Sundays:  
**6<sup>th</sup> October, 17<sup>th</sup> November and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**

*The children and their leaders will join the respective congregations later on in the service.*