

HOMILY FOR YEAR 6 LEAVERS MASS

Since this is our end of school year we have assembled for this Mass primarily to give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received in the past academic year. For our Year 6 children it is also the end of their time at Primary School and I know that they and their parents will feel a wee bit sad to be saying goodbye and sorry to leave this happy and secure environment. That's only natural. It's a time to look back and remember with gladness the years you spent here but also to look forward to new schools, new friends and new beginnings.

All good things come to an end but you are not finished with your education you are just moving on. Take it a day at a time. Take each day as it comes and live that day as best you can. See each day as the first day of the rest of your lives and you won't go far wrong.

I know you've made friends at this school and you appreciate their kindness and goodness to you. Jesus said to his followers: 'I call you friends'. Jesus needed friends because he was human like us. Friendship, however, is built up in little ways. In God's eyes small, often unseen, words or acts of kindness are better than something big done merely to impress people. St Theresa of Calcutta reminds us that 'Jesus said love one another. He didn't say love the whole world.' And she also said: 'If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one'.

However, it's no small step you are taking as you move from here to the bigger secondary school. You'll soon get settled in and make new friends and learn new things. My advice to you not to waste your time there. Each of us has different talents given us by God. You'll soon discover in your next school what you have a flair for. But my second bit of advice to you is that if you struggle with something, don't give up trying. God loves a trier. Your efforts will be rewarded.

They say when the going gets tough, the tough get going and that applies not just to you but indeed to all of us.

So as the children sang in the 'sound of music' without further ado we say to year 6 today:

So, long, Adieu
You leave and heave and say goodbye.
We'll miss you.