

# PRAYER SERVICE TO CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTS' DAY

## **Sacred Space**

*Cloth, Bible, Candle, St. Brigid's Cross and enough space on which to place the names of all the grandparents.*

## **WORD OF WELCOME**

This morning we want to say a very warm welcome to the grandparents who have gathered here with us. It is wonderful to see so many of you. The children are all excited to see you here today. For some of you it is your first visit to our school, for others it's a daily visit to collect your grandchild or grandchildren, and for some of you it brings back memories of childhood because you went to school here. We also remember the grandparents who cannot be with us; those who could not travel, those who live far away, those who are sick, and sadly, those who have died are now residing with God in heaven. They are all in our thoughts wherever they are this morning. We remember all the grandparents in our short Prayer Service here today.

## **Leader**

Let us begin our prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **LIGHTING THE CANDLE**

*Invite a grandparent and grandchild to come forward and light the candle. The child could hold the candle as the grandparent lights it and places it in the Sacred Space.*

## **Leader**

The light of the candle is a reminder of God's presence, round and about us, through us, with us and in us. We give thanks for the light that Jesus brings to the world in which we live, and for the light that we are for one another.

## **HYMN**

Christ be our Light (*Alive-O6, page 110; Alive-O7, page 283*)

Christ is my Light (*Alive-O3, page 52; Alive-O5, page 23*)

## **Leader**

Today is a very special day. It is Grandparents' Day and we are blessed that so many grandparents could be with us for this celebration. We want to honour and celebrate you all for the important role you play in the life of the community, but most significantly in the lives of the children who are sitting here beside you. You are very important to them, as we know they are to you. Let us listen for a moment to the names of those grandparents who are able to be with us today, and we also remember those who are unable to be with us.

*(All the grandparents of the children in the class are named)*

## **CALLING THE NAMES OF THE GRANDPARENTS PRESENT**

### **Reader 1**

Reads out the names of all the grandparents present ... *(call out the names of those present)*

Some grandparents cannot be with us today. We have asked children to place their name or a photograph in our Sacred Space. *Give the children time to arrange the photos or names...*  
We remember... *(call out the names of those who are not present)*

### **Reader 1**

Some grandparents live far away and could not travel, others are sick at home or in hospital, and some are with God in heaven. We ask God to bless and take care of all the grandparents who cannot be with us today. May they know that we love them very much and we remember them in our prayers at this special gathering.

### **Leader**

Today is also the Feast of St. Brigid, one of the patron Saints of Ireland. We honour her memory today.

### **Leader**

Loving God, you called Saint Brigid to teach those around her to love, through the way she lived her life: caring for those in need, feeding the hungry and giving shelter to those who had none. Grant each one of us the same generous spirit, so that we too, may show your love to all. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

### **HYMN**

We sing a song to Brigid.

*(Alive-O, page 138; Alive-O2, page 155; Alive-O5, page 377; Alive-O6, page 371)*

### **Leader**

Loving God, you called Saint Brigid to teach those around her to love, through the way she lived her life: caring for those in need, feeding the hungry and giving shelter to those who had none. Grant each one of us the same generous spirit, so that we too, may show your love to all. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

## **WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD TO US TODAY**

### **Reader 2**

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians...*

This is what I pray kneeling before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. And then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have the strength to

grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love surpasses knowledge – so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

*The Word of the Lord*

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

### **Leader**

We know that God always listens to us when we pray and so we bring our prayers before him...

### **Response**

Lord, hear our prayer.

### **Reader 3**

We pray for all who care for us: the staff of our school, our parents, grandparents and our families. Let us pray to the Lord...

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

### **Reader 4**

We pray for our teachers; that they may continue to help us to be the best that we can be. Let us pray to the Lord...

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

### **Reader 5**

We pray for children everywhere; that their homes and schools are places where they know that they are loved and cared for always. Let us pray to the Lord...

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

### **Reader 6**

We pray for all our grandparents. Lord, bless them for all the love and care they have shared with us over the years. Let us pray to the Lord...

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

### **Reader 7**

We pray for all who have died; we remember especially grandparents and all those we loved, may they be at peace with God in his heavenly home. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

### **Leader**

We take these prayers and the prayers of our heart and we offer them to God as we stand and pray together...

**All:** Our Father...

## **FINAL BLESSING**

### **Leader**

As we go on our way we carry beautiful memories of this day with us.

We ask God our loving Father to bless you with health and happiness.

May God bless you and may the love and joy of Jesus be always with you.

**All:** Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

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## **REMEMBER TO:**

- Take some photographs.
- Invite the senior classes, prior to the gathering, to compose a prayer or poem for grandparents. Display these on the day.
- Invite the Grandparents to chat to their grandchild and share some memories of school. Allow a child whose grandparent is not present to join in with a friend.
- Invite a grandparent with a special interest to speak to the children, e.g. how to make St. Brigid's Cross, stories about their school days, prayers they learned, poems they remember, games they played, local history, memories of their village, the shops and characters etc.
- Allow the senior pupils to entertain the grandparents with songs, poems, music and dance.
- Invite the grandparents to a cup of tea/coffee and scone.