









**THEMES** 

**MUSIC** 

**PRAYERS** 

# traduation Liturgy Resources





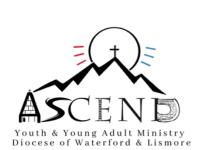
# Graduation Liturgy Resources

We hope this will be of help to you in planning graduation liturgies / Masses for your youth group or classes.

The Scripture references, song titles and websites have all been hyperlinked in this pdf to make life a little easier for you!



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For more resources for post-primary schools /
youth groups, check out
www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry
or subscribe to our weekly
To the Heights newsletter and resources

by clicking <u>here</u> or emailing youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie



### Updated 2023

Disclaimer: On these resource pages you will find links to external websites. Although we make every effort to ensure these links are accurate, up to date and relevant, Ascend Youth & Young Adult Ministry cannot take responsibility for pages maintained by external providers. While we strive to provide only links to useful and ethical websites, we have no control over the content and nature of these sites and the links to other websites do not imply a recommendation for all the content found on these sites.



- THEME: JOURNEY / CLIMB The best is yet to come.
- The best view comes after the hardest climb.
- Verso l'alto (to the heights!) (Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati)
- I thank you for your part in my journey (FOOTPRINTS)
- Wherever you go, go with all your heart
- There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind. (CS Lewis)
- Not all who wander are lost (JRR Tolkien)

### THEME: STEP UP TO CHALLENGE

- Dreams don't work unless you do
- · If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you
- Whatever you do, do it well. (Walt Disney)
- There are no shortcuts to any place worth going
- · It is our choices that show who we truly are, more than our abilities
- · Your greatness is not what you have, it's what you give.
- I am not afraid. I was born to do this. (Joan of Arc)
- · The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. Eleanor Roosevelt
- There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs.
- · It always seems impossible until it is done. Nelson Mandela
- · The rest is still unwritten.

### THEME: COURAGE / CHANGE

- · Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, say to this mountain "Move!" and it will move. (Matthew 17:20)
- · Courage, dear heart! (Aslan, CS Lewis)
- · Be strong and courageous. Joshua 1:9
- I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me (Phil 4:13)
- Let your faith be bigger than your fears
- · You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore
- · Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders. (Hillsong)
- You are here, moving in our midst (Waymaker)
- For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for peace and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Jer 29:11.

### THEME: JOY

- Choose Joy!
- · Be truly glad there is wonderful joy ahead. (1 Peter 1:6)

### THEME: LIGHT

- Let your light so shine (Matthew 5:16)
- · Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Psalm 119:105)

### THEME: BE WHO YOU ARE CREATED TO BE

- This above all: to thine own self be true (Shakespeare)
- Know Thyself. Socrates
- · I am only a little pencil in the hand of God, who is sending a love letter to the world. (Mother Teresa)
- You are precious in my eyes and honoured and I love you. Isaiah 43:4
- You are God's masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10)
- A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it. It just blooms.
- Blossom where vou're planted
- · If you are what you should be, you will set the world on fire. (St Catherine of Siena)

### THEME: LOVE / SERVICE

- Let all that you do be done in love. (I Cor 16:14)
- · Love Never Fails (1 Corinthians 13)
- · Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8
- · BElieve THEre is GOOD in the world
- Use the gifts you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. (St Therese of Lisieux)







- · And all the people said Amen (Matt Maher)
- A rightful place (Steve Angrisano)
- Blessed be Your Name (Matt Redman)
- Come now is the time (Brian Doerksen)
- Give us your heart (Melanie Tierce)
- God I look to you (Bethel)
- **Great Things** (Matt Maher)
- Hallelujah (Your love is amazing) (Brian Doerksen)
- Here I am to worship (Tim Hughes)
- How great is our God (Chris Tomlin)
- **Set the world on fire** (Britt Nicole)
- **In Christ alone** (Stuart Townend)
- I will be (Natalie Grant)
- Joy (Rend Collective)
- King of my heart (Kutless)
- Love the Lord your God (Lincoln Brewster)
- Mighty to save (Hillsong)
- My Lighthouse (Rend Collective)
- Not I yet but through Christ in me (City Alight)
- Oceans / where feet may fail (Hillsong)
- Open the eyes of my heart (Brian Doerksen)
- **Our God** (Chris Tomlin)
- Our God is here (Chris Muglia)
- Raise a Hallelujah (Bethel)
- **Lord Reign in Me** (Brenton Brown)
- Shine Jesus Shine (Graham Kendrick)
- **Shout to the Lord** (Darlene Zschech)
- Shout to the north (Robin Mark)
- Ten Thousand Reasons (Matt Redman)
- The Goodness of God (Bethel Music)
- Today I choose (Brian Doerksen)
- Walk on the water (Britt Nicole)
- Waymaker (Leeland)
- What a beautiful name (Hillsong)
- What faith can do (Kutless)
- Who you say I am (Hillsong)
- You are my shepherd (Tricia Brock)
- You are my vision (Rend Collective)
- Your grace is enough (Matt Maher)
- **Your Promises** (Elevation worship)

- As the deer (Stefanie Gretzinger)
- May your love be upon us (Boyce & Stanley)
- Only in God (John Michael Talbot)
- The Lord's my Shepherd (Stuart Townend)
  PAGE 2

- All for Jesus (Robin Mark)
- Here's my heart, Lord (David Crowder)
- Holy and Anointed One (Vineyard Worship)
- Jesus be the centre (Vineyard Songs)
- Jesus, be with us now (David Haas)
- Jesus Christ, You are my Life (Marco Frisina)
- Nothing I hold onto (WIII Reagan & Utd Pursuit)
- **Refiner's Fire** (Brian Doerksen)
- The Potter's Hand (Hillsong)
- Worthy of it all (Kelly Heiligenthal)

# COMMUNION

- At the Cross (Hillsong)
- Behold the Lamb (Boyce & Stanley)
- Bread of Life (Boyce & Stanley)
- Communion (Maverick City)
- **Everything** (Tim Hughes)
- God I look to you (Francescan Battistelli)
- **Great are you Lord** (All Sons & Daughters)
- **Here I am to worship** (Tim Hughes)
- I shall not want (Audrey Assad)
- **It is well with me** (Kristene di Marco)
- Lord I need You (Matt Maher)
- Not I yet but through Christ in me (City Alight)
- O Come to the Altar (Elevation Worship)
- One Bread One Body (John Michael Talbot)
- Take and eat this is my body (lan Callanan)
- The Potter's Hand (Darlene Zchech
- This is Jesus (Jim Cowan)
- Worthy is the Lamb (Hillsong)
- You are my all in all (Brentwood Baptist Worship)
- You gave your life away (Paul Baloche)

# REFLECTION

- A living prayer (Alison Krauss)
- Be still my soul (Kari Jobe)
- **Build my Life** (Housefires)
- Good good Father (Chris Tomlin)
- Good to me (Audrey Assad)
- In your arms (through the storms) (Oslo Gospel Choir)
- **New wine (Hillsong)**
- Oceans / where feet may fail (Hillsong)
- **Only by grace** (Fr Rob Galea)
- Reckless Love (Cory Asbury)
- Restless (Audrey Assad)
- So Will I (100 Billion X) (Hillsong)
- The Blessing (Bethel)
- Who am I (Casting Crowns)
- You Say (Lauren Daigle)
- You Speak (Audrey Assad)

### THE BIBLE REFERENCES ARE HYPERLINKED

# Séripture Readings

# **OLD TESTAMENT**

- Isaiah 40:28-31
- Ieremiah 29: 11-14
- Isaiah 43:1-3
- Proverbs 8: 32 35
- Numbers 6: 24 26
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-12
- Wisdom 6:11 20
- Deuteronomy 32: 7 12

Go the distance

God's plan for our lives

God is always with us

Listening to God

The Lord's Blessing (see: The Blessing)

A Season for Everything

What is Wisdom?

God's love through the generations



# **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

- Psalm 100
- Psalm 25
- Psalm 46
- Psalm 67
- Psalm 112
- Psalm 139

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth

In You O Lord I put my trust

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you

Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me

# **NEW TESTAMENT**

- Philippians 4:4-8
- Philippians 1:3-6,9-11
- Romans 8: 31 35; 37 39
- 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13
- 1 Corinthians 12: 4 13
- 1 John 4: 7 12
- Romans 12: 4-13

Rejoice in the Lord always

More than Conquerors

What Love is

Gifts and Talents

# GOSPEL

- Matthew 5:14-16
- Matthew 6: 25 34
- Matthew 6:19 21
- Matthew 14: 22-33
- Matthew 22: 34 40
- Luke 24: 13 35
- John 15: 9 17
- Luke 8:4-8
- Mark 4:35-41

I give thanks for you

Love one another/love comes from God

Members of the one Body

You are the light of the world

Do not worry

Where your treasure is, your heart is

Iesus walks on water

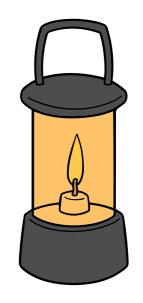
The Greatest Commandment

The Road to Emmaus

Greater love has no one than this

Parable of the Sower

*Iesus calms the storm* 



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### THE SONG TITLES ARE HYPERLINKED TO YOUTUBE VIDEOS

# Fraction Theme Sono

# SECULAR SONGS THAT CAN WORK WELL AS A THEME SONG AFTER MASS / PRAYER SERVICE IS OVER OR FOR A NON-RELIGIOUS CELEBRATION

- · Footprints in the Sand (Leona Lewis)
- Unwritten (Natasha Bedingfield)
- For Good (Idina Menzel, Kristin Chenoweth From "Wicked" the Musical
- Firework (Katy Perry)
- Graduation (Vitamin C)
- I'll be there for you (Rembrandts)
- · Lean on Me (Bill Withers)
- Stand by Me (Ben E King)
- True Colours (Cyndi Lauper)
- My Wish (Rascal Flatts)
- I Was Here (Beyoncé)
- These Are Days (10,000 Maniacs)
- Have it All (Jason Mraz)
- Happy (Pharrell)
- See You Again (Wiz Khalifa ft. Charlie Puth)
- Purpose (Justin Bieber)
- I Hope You Dance (Lee Ann Womack)
- The Climb (Miley Cyrus)
- You Raise me up (Josh Groban)
- Seasons of Love (RENT Cast)
- Ain't no Mountain (Marvin Gaye)
- Never Forget (Take That)
- · What a wonderful world (Lewis Armstrong)





### PAGE 4



God of Goodness,

we pray for Pope Francis, the Bishops and all the clergy. Help them to follow you faithfully so that they may lead us always to you. Lord hear us.

God of Love,

bless our homes and families, especially those who are sick or unemployed or troubled in any way. Lord hear us.

God of Wisdom,

we pray for the students, teachers and staff of our school, that you may continue to bless and direct them in their lives. Lord hear us.

God of Hope,

we pray for all our loved ones who have passed away. May they enjoy everlasting happiness in heaven. Lord hear us.

God of Peace,

we pray for those who are suffering in our world because of war and violence. Bless our leaders with your Spirit of Peace that they may make decisions that follow your path of peace. Lord hear us.

God of Gentleness,

we pray for our all friends who over these past years have shared laughter, tears, heartaches and happiness with us, that they may know how much we love and cherish them. Lord hear us.

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# Fraduation Candle Ceremony

At the beginning of Mass, 4 Leaving Cert students come forward to be presented with a lit candle by the following representatives: parent/guardian, younger student in school, staff member, parish representative (can be the pirest). Each representative reads their reflection, before being handed their candle to pass to one of the students, who then places the candle on a display area near the altar. You can cut the labels on the next page to glue or pin to the candles also with thumbtacks.



# Candle 1: (Love - ottered by a parent or guardian)

On behalf of the parents and guardians here I offer you the Light of Love. We lit this light for you long ago, before you even remember. When you were afraid of the dark, this light was left on for you. On your first day at school, this light shone for you. This light waited up for you if you were home late, even if you wished it hadn't. Carry this light into a world that needs love; be light and love to all you meet. And remember, that in any dark times or storms you face, turn towards home and this light will still burn brightly for you.



# Candle 2: (Wisdom - ottered by a statt member)

On behalf of the Staff of \_\_\_\_\_\_ I offer you the Light of Wisdom. In your time here we offered you the wisdom we had. Now you must carry this light into a world that sometimes lacks wisdom. You will face choices and opportunities past generations could only have dreamed of. You will face exams and other challenges in the months and years ahead. May wisdom always inspire you and lead you to goodness and truth.



# Candle 3: (Memory - ottered by a younger student in the school)

On behalf of all the students that you leave behind I offer you the Light of Memory. As you go forth from here, carry the memories of your time here in your heart. Remember those who remain and carry on the legacy of our school, as we will remember you and your legacy here too.



# Candle 4: (Faith - offered by the priest or a parishioner)

On behalf of our Parish I offer you the Light of Faith. This light has shone in your heart since Baptism. Never forget that you are a valued member of the Christian community here. Carry this light with you. Be a light for all the world.

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# Love

Misdom

Memory

FAUTA

These labels can be cut out and stuck to white pillar candles with prittstick or thumbtacks, or you could paint the words directly to the candles with acryllic paint.

PAGE 7



# Parent's Blessing

When you were born our hearts were so full of happiness that there was no room in us for words.

When you were growing our hearts were so full of care for you that we spoke soothingly and sometimes sharply, fearful for your safety,

but always, in the deepest places of our hearts, we spoke lovingly.

# Today,

as we watch you moving forward with your friends we marvel at all you have done and become.

Our spirits sing praise to God
for the gift that is you
and though our hearts have stretched to love others,
yet here is a place within us
that is yours and only yours always.
For the light you have shone on us,
for the life you have called to us,
for the special gift from God
you are now and ever will be....

Thank you.

- Christy Kenneally -



# A Parent's Love Poem

I give you life, but cannot live it for you.

I can give you directions, but I cannot be there to lead you.

I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot always decide for you.

I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you beautiful inside.

I can offer you advice, but I cannot accept it for you.

I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you.

I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.

I can teach you respect, but I cannot force you to show honour.

I can advise you about friends, but I cannot choose them for you.

I can tell you about alcohol and drugs, but I can't say 'no' for you.

I can tell you about lofty goals, but I can't achieve them for you.

I can teach you about kindness, but I can't force you to be gracious.

I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God

I can tell you how to live, but I cannot give you eternal life.

I can love you with unconditional love all of my life ......and I will.





Father, I have knowledge, so I pray you'll show me now how to use it wisely and find a way somehow to make the world I live in a better place, And make life, with its problems, a bit easier to face... Grant me faith and courage, and put purpose in my days, And show me how to serve you in the most effective ways, So all my education, my knowledge and my skill, May find their true fulfilment as I learn to do Your will... And may I ever be aware in everything I do that knowledge comes from learning - and wisdom comes from You.

- Helen Steiner Rice -





Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Or deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves,

who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It is not just in some of us: It's in everyone.

And when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

- Marianne Williamson -





Just think
You're not here by chance,
But by God's choosing.
His Hand formed you
And made you the person you are.
He compared you to no-one else,
You are one of a kind.
You lack nothing
that His grace cannot give you.
He has allowed you to be here

At this time in history

To fulfil his special purpose

For this generation.





One night I dreamed a dream.

I was walking along the beach with my Lord.

Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my

life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child,
I love you and will never leave you,
never, ever, during your trials and testings.

When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

44444



Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery.

But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love;

for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you,

no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.

And whatever your labours and aspirations,

in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

by Max Ehrmann





When you're up against a trouble,
Meet it squarely, face to face;
Lift your chin and set your shoulders,
Plant your feet and take a brace.
When it's vain to try to dodge it,
Do the best that you can do;
You may fail, but you may conquer,
See it through!

Black may be the clouds about you
And your future may seem grim,
But don't let your nerve desert you;
Keep yourself in fighting trim.
If the worst is bound to happen,
Spite of all that you can do,
Running from it will not save you,
See it through!

Even hope may seem but futile,
When with troubles you're beset,
But remember you are facing
Just what other men have met.
You may fail, but fall still fighting;
Don't give up, whate'er you do;
Eyes front, head high to the finish.
See it through!

Edgar Guest - 1881-1959



# Reading:

A Reading from the Letter of St Paul to Timothy

"Let no one disregard you because you are young, but be an example to all the believers in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, your faith and your purity."

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

# Psalm:

# Prayers of Intercession:

Lord, we thank you for the year that we have had, for the fun and the friendships we enjoyed, for the obstacles we overcame and for all that we learned and achieved. Lord hear us

### All: Lord graciously hear us

Lord we thank you for our families and for the support they were to us over the past year. Please bless our families Lord and reward them for their goodness, patience and generosity. Lord hear us

## All: Lord graciously hear us

Lord we thank you for the teachers and staff of our school, who gave of their time and helped to make this year what it was. We ask you to bless this school in a special way. Lord hear us

### All: Lord graciously hear us

Lord we pray for our class as we head into 5th year in September. Help us to use the skills we have learned this year to apply ourselves to our studies and friendships and to making our school, our community and our world a better place. Lord hear us

# All: Lord graciously hear us

We pray together, asking Our Lady in a special way in this month of May to offer our intentions to her Son:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

# Final Ketlection: Pope Francis speaking to Youth

"Dear young people, have you thought about how you can put the talents God has given you at the service of others? Life is given to us not to jealously preserve it for ourselves, but so that we make a gift of it to others. Do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things"

# Final Hymn:

### PAGE 16



# Reading:

A Reading from the Prophet Micah

You have already been told what is right and what the Lord wants of you; only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

# Psalm:

Prayers of Intercession:

Lord, we thank you for the past three years that we have had, for the fun and the friendships we enjoyed, for the obstacles we overcame and for all that we learned and achieved. Lord hear us

## All: Lord graciously hear us

Lord we thank you for our families and for the support they were to us over the past year. Please bless our families Lord and reward them for their goodness, patience and generosity. Lord hear us

### All: Lord graciously hear us

Lord we thank you for the teachers and staff of our school, who gave of their time and helped to make this year what it was. We ask you to bless this school in a special way. Lord hear us

## All: Lord graciously hear us

Lord we pray for the weeks ahead as we sit our Junior Cert exams. Send your Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us. Lord hear us

# All: Lord graciously hear us

Lord we pray for our class as we head into 5th year and Transition Year in September. Help us to use the skills we have learned these past three years to apply ourselves to our studies and friendships and to making our school, our community and our world a better place. Lord hear us

## All: Lord graciously hear us

We pray together, asking Our Lady in a special way in this month of May to offer our intentions to her Son:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

# Final Retlection: Just Think

Just think: You're not here by chance, but by God's choosing. His hand formed you and made you the person you are. He compared you to no-one else; you are one of a kind. You lack nothing that his grace cannot give you. He has allowed you to be here at this time in history to fulfil his special purpose for this generation.

# Final Hymn:



# Graduation resources

- www.prayever.com
- www.slife.org
- www.resource.ni.com
- www.catholicteacherresources.com

# Music

• https://www.ultimate-guitar.com/ (for guitar chords - keys can be transposed)

# Scripture

- https://www.biblegateway.com/ (for Bible references)
- https://www.catholicireland.net/readings/ (readings of the day)

# Artwork / Banner / Booklet Ideas

- www.pinterest.com
- www.canva.com (create booklets / posters / invites etc)

# Technology

• www.viewpure.com (to show YouTube videos without ads)