

Year 7 Welcome Mass

Wednesday 3 September 2025

Celebrant: Canon Peter Stanley



I have come that they may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)

LOVE GOD
WORK HARD
BE KIND

Opening Hymn: Here I Am, Lord (Daniel L Schutte)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make the darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them –
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

Here I am, Lord...

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
'till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord...



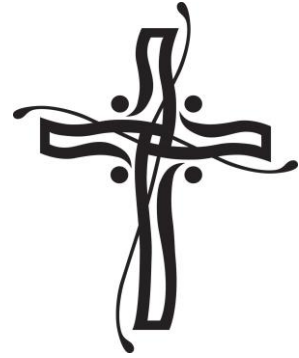
The Introductory Rite

P/ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit

R/ Amen

P/ The Lord be with you

R/ And with your spirit



Penitential Rite

Fr Peter will invite us to consider our sins before praying:

P/ You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

Lord, have mercy

R/ Lord, have mercy

P/ You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy

R/ Christ, have mercy

P/ You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy

R/ Lord, have mercy

P/ May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life

R/ Amen

P/ Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,

lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,

so that the humble flock may reach where the brave shepherd has gone before.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

R/ Amen

PLEASE SIT

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel (34:11-16abce)

The Lord says this:

‘I, the Lord God, will look for my people and take care of them myself.

As a shepherd looks for sheep that have wandered away, I will search for my scattered people. I will rescue them from all the places where they went on that dark and gloomy day. I will bring them back from the foreign countries and protect them on the mountains, in the valleys and wherever they settle. My people will be like sheep grazing and resting in good pastures and on Israel’s mountains. I, the Lord All-Powerful, will lead them there and watch over them. I will look for the lost sheep and bring back the ones that have wandered off. If any are hurt, I will bandage their wounds. If any are weak, I will help them. I will take good care of my people!’

The word of the Lord

R/ Thanks be to God

The Response: You Have Called Us by Our Name (Bernadette Farrell)

You have called us by our name, we belong to you.

You have called us by our name and we are yours.

You have called us by our name, we belong to you.

You have called us by our name and we are yours.

You have chosen us to be members of your family.

In your love you have created us to live in unity.

You have called us by our name...

You will lead us to your light, walk before us in the night,

you will guide us on our journey, you will keep our vision bright.

You have called us by our name...

You will hold us when we fall, give new strength to hear your call,

you will never be beyond us, for your love is all in all.

You have called us by our name...

You will nourish, you will lead, giving everything we need,
for your reign will be established from the smallest of all seeds.

You have called us by our name...

Through our sharing here today may our faith and life convey
Christ our light and Christ our vision, Christ our purpose, Christ our way.

You have called us by our name...

ALL STAND TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full, says the Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

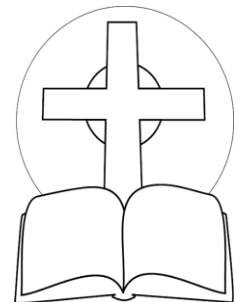
The Gospel John 10:1-10

P/ The Lord be with you

R/ **And with your spirit**

P/ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

R/ **Glory to you, O Lord**



Jesus said to his disciples, 'I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going through the gate into the sheep pen, but the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd and he goes through it. The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out. When he has led out all the sheep, he walks in front of them and they follow, because they know his voice. The sheep will not follow strangers. They don't recognise a stranger's voice and they run away.'

Jesus told the people this story, but they did not understand what he was talking about. Then he said, 'I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep. Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber and the sheep did not listen to any of them. I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me, they will come and go and find pasture. A thief comes only to rob, kill and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life and have it in its fullest.'

P/ The Gospel of the Lord

R/ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

The Homily – *PLEASE SIT*

Prayer of the Faithful:

Our prayers were written by some of our older pupils who remember what it is like to start high school.

We pray for children all over the world who do not have access to education. We pray that they feel valued in the world and supported in their life choices, and that they know they are loved and cared for by God, who will be with them every day.

Lord in your mercy,

R/ Hear our prayer

We pray for everyone in our school community: the cleaners, teachers, site staff, cooks, admin team and teaching assistants. We thank them for everything that they do for us; we thank them for all their hard work. We pray that we will always remember to show our appreciation.

Lord in your mercy,

R/ Hear our prayer

We pray for the new Year 7s, hoping that they settle in well. We pray that they feel welcome at Holy Cross as part of our magnificent school community, and that they succeed in living out our mission statement, remembering to Love God, Work Hard and Be Kind.

Lord in your mercy,

R/ Hear our prayer

We give thanks for the blessing of our family. Our families nourish us with love, care and support. They bring us joy and laughter. We pray for their safety and hope that, through our hard work, we make them proud.

Lord in your mercy,

R/ Hear our prayer

We thank God for friends and we pray that we will create new bonds of friendship, as well as treasuring our old relationships. We ask God to forgive us for the times when we have used rude words or lost friends and we ask for his help to repair broken friendships.

Lord in your mercy,

R/ Hear our prayer

We ask Mary to pray with us as we say together:

Hail Mary, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

**Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.**

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death.**

Amen

The Offertory

Hymn: We Come to the Table of the Lord

We come to the table of the Lord, as one body formed in your love.

We come to the table of the Lord, as one body formed in your love.

Bread broken and shared to nourish us. (Repeat)

At the table of the Lord. (Repeat)

We come to the table of the Lord...

Cup poured out so we will never thirst. (Repeat)

At the table of the Lord. (Repeat)

We come to the table of the Lord...

Come, come share with me. Come, come to my feast.

We come to the table of the Lord...



P/ Pray, my dear friends,

that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father

**R/ May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church**

P/ Lord, look with love on our service.

Accept the gifts we bring

and help us to grow in Christian love.

Through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

P/ The Lord be with you

R/ And with your spirit

P/ Lift up your hearts

R/ We lift them up to the Lord

P/ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

R/ It is right and just

Fr Peter will continue with the Preface, at the end of which we say together:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Fr Peter will continue with the Eucharistic Prayer.

After the consecration we proclaim the Mystery of Faith:

P/ The mystery of faith

R/ When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer:

P/ Through him, and with him, and in him,

O God almighty Father,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honour is yours,

for ever and ever.

R/ Amen



The Communion Rite

We say together:

**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.**

P/ Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy, we may always be free from sin and safe from all
distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ
R/ For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever

P/ Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: peace I leave you, my peace I give
you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant
her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and
ever.

R/ Amen

P/ The peace of the Lord be with you always



At the Breaking of Bread, we say together:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace**

P/ Behold the Lamb of God, behold Jesus who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb

**R/ Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed**

*If you are not able to receive communion today,
please come forward with your arms folded across your chest, for a blessing*

Hymn: Bread of Life, Truth Eternal (Boyce & Stanley)

**Bread of Life, truth eternal, broken now to set us free.
The risen Christ, his saving power, is here in bread and wine for me.**

Lord, I know I am not worthy to receive you.
You speak the words and I am healed.
Here at your table, love's mystery,
one bread, one life, one family.

**Bread of Life, truth eternal, broken now to set us free.
The risen Christ, his saving power, is here in bread and wine for me.**

Lord, by your Cross, you reconciled us to the Father.
We have only to believe.
Your sacrifice, our victory;
now by your blood we are redeemed.

**Bread of Life, truth eternal, broken now to set us free.
The risen Christ, his saving power, is here in bread and wine for me.**

Lord, you gave your people manna in the desert;
still you fulfil our every need.
Lord when we hunger, Lord when we thirst,
we come to you and we receive:

**Bread of Life, truth eternal, broken now to set us free.
The risen Christ, his saving power, is here in bread and wine for me.**



Prayer after Communion

P/ Let us pray.
All-powerful God,
you renew us with your sacraments.
Help us to thank you by lives of faithful service.
Through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen

The Concluding Rite

P/ The Lord be with you

R/ And with your spirit

P/ May almighty God bless you,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

R/ Amen

P/ The Mass is ended.

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life

R/ Thanks be to God

Closing hymn: Song of Hope (© 2024 OneLife Music)

We are pilgrims on a journey,
journeying together, journeying together with you, O Lord.
We are called and chosen, called and chosen,
called and chosen by you, O Lord.

**To sing a song of hope,
hope for all the world;
to bring the grace of jubilee alive!**

**Fan the flame of hope
bringing light to all the world.
May my song of hope rise to you,
God of love, Lord of all.**

We have hope within us,
hope within us, hope within us from you, O Lord.
We are called to shine bright;
children of light, children of light and truth, O Lord.

To sing a song of hope...

Given gifts of service,
to serve one another, serve one another, and you, O Lord.

To sing a song of hope...



School Prayer

Lord

May our school be full of welcoming

Let our rooms be full of happiness

Let learning fill our day

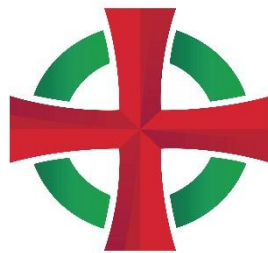
Teach us to respect ourselves

Give us the strength to do our best

Give us the skill to use our talents wisely

Lord, make this school your home

Amen



Holy Cross
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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