



Holy Cross
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

A Farewell Celebration For the Class of 2026

Friday 22 May 2026

Celebrant: Canon Peter Stanley

Be strong and courageous.

*Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

(Joshua 1:9)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Today we gather as a school community
to celebrate and give thanks for the time we have spent together.

Over the past five years,
we have grown together in faith,
in friendship,
and in understanding,
shaping not only who we are as individuals,
but who we are as a school.

This Mass marks both an ending and a beginning:
the closing of one chapter
and the opening of many new paths ahead.

Though we will soon leave these classrooms and walk different roads,
we do not leave this community behind.

The values we have learned here,
the relationships we have built,
and the faith we have shared will continue to guide us.
We will always be part of this school's story,
and this school will always be part of ours.

As we celebrate today,
we place our hopes, dreams, and futures
into the loving care of God,
asking his blessing as we go forward
with courage, gratitude, and faith,
to take our place in the communities we are called to serve.

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 their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light 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.

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 ...

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 ...

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING

Fr Peter: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit

All: **Amen.**

Fr Peter: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

PENITENTIAL RITE

Fr Peter: You came to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven:
Lord, have mercy

R, **Lord, have mercy.**

Fr Peter: You came that we might know the Father through you:
Christ, have mercy

R, **Christ, have mercy.**

Fr Peter: You are the Word of God, made flesh, who lives within us:
Lord, have mercy.

R, **Lord, have mercy.**

R Peter: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

R, **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Fr Peter: God our Father,
source of all light and inspiration,
lead and guide these young people.
Help them to know your will and to follow it with courage.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R, **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

(1Thes 5:12-25)

We beg you, our friends, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves. We urge you, our friends, to warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus. Do not restrain the Holy Spirit; do not despise inspired messages. Put all things to the test: keep what is good and avoid every kind of evil.

May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being; spirit, soul, and body free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you will do it, because he is faithful. Pray also for us, friends.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Response: Psalm 139 (1-3. 13-14. 15 R/ 24a)

I thank you who wonderfully made me.

I thank you who wonderfully made me.

O LORD, you search me and you know me.
You yourself know my resting and my rising;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down;
you know all my ways through and through.

For it was you who formed my innermost being,
knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you who wonderfully made me;
how wonderful are your works,
which my soul knows well!

I thank you who wonderfully made me.

I thank you who wonderfully made me.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being fashioned in secret
and moulded in the depths of the earth.

I thank you who wonderfully made me.

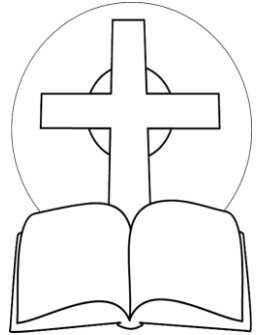
ALL STAND TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:19

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of men.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-22

Fr Peter: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
Fr Peter: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.



As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James and John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for the teachers and staff who welcomed us into the family of Holy Cross and who have supported us throughout these five years. May they continue to inspire and nurture pupils. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for ourselves, that the Lord will guide us along our different paths and that, although we will travel in many directions, we will remain together in spirit through the bonds of friendship and love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have faced personal tragedy during our time at Holy Cross: for those who have been unwell; for those who have had to cope with illness in their family; for those who have faced the death of a loved one; for those who continue to suffer today. Let us give thanks for the work of the pastoral teams who have supported us in our times of need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray that, during this stressful time, we will stay focused and that, as we continue through our lives, we will recognise and seize the opportunities open to us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray in silence for our own personal intentions.

We ask Mary, our Mother, to join her prayer to ours as we say:

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 LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Gifts

Fr Peter: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you; fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Fr Peter: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you; fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Fr Peter: Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**All: 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.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Fr Peter: Lord God,
may our prayer together increase our faith in your companionship,
our hope in your love, our love for your people.
As we offer this bread and wine,
may we be strengthened in our friendship with you, now and forever.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Amen.

The Preface

Fr Peter: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your spirit.
Fr Peter: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
Fr Peter: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right and just.

Fr Peter continues 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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Fr Peter continues with the Eucharistic Prayer. After the consecration, he says:

Fr Peter: The mystery of faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

The Doxology and Great Amen

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer:

Fr Peter: 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.

All: Amen.

The Communion Rite

Fr Peter invites us to say together:

All: 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

Fr Peter: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that,
by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all
distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.

The Breaking of Bread

As Fr Peter breaks the host, 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.

Fr Peter: 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.

Communion

*If you are unable to receive Communion today, please come forward with your arms folded
across your chest, to receive a blessing.*



REFLECTION

The God of our all lives,
is challenging you to walk towards your future;
inviting you to continue to learn,
to accept new challenges,
to discover new ways to care,
new ways to touch the hearts of all.

When you are fearful of the unknown, may he give you courage.
When you worry that you are not up to the task,
remember that he would not call you if he did not believe in you.
When you get tired or disappointed with the way things are going,
remember that he can bring change and hope to the most difficult situations.

May the Lord bless the doors you open,
the thresholds you cross,
the roads that lie before you.
May he be with you always as you go, sharing the journey.

(based on Kathy Galloway: Growing Hope – Iona Community 2005)

CLOSING PRAYER

Fr Peter: God of all beginnings and endings,
we praise and thank you
for bringing these young people to Holy Cross
and for giving us this time together.

Help them as they travel on their chosen career paths,
in college, or in the workplace,
to work and study with maturity.
Let the efforts of this, and past, years bear fruit.

Teach them to see themselves as your blessed children,
and to appreciate who they are;
the wonderful and unique people you created,
fearfully and wonderfully made; divine masterpieces.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

Fr Peter: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Fr Peter: May almighty God bless you,
the Father,
the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Fr Peter: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by the lives you lead.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine! (Graham Kendrick)

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire!
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord and let there be light!

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine ...

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine ...



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

At Holy Cross this means

LOVE GOD

WORK HARD

BE KIND