Mass Texts for the Academic Mass

The Academic Mass is traditionally celebrated as a Red Mass (a Mass of the Holy Spirit, with red vestments) to mark the beginning of the school year.

The Mass texts might be chosen from any of the three votive Masses of the Holy Spirit (Roman Missal p.1404), or from the Mass at the Beginning of the Civil Year (p.1352), or from the Mass for the Sanctification of Human Labour (p.1353), or from a combination of these. All are likely to need adaptation.

Some texts are suggested below, including unofficial alternatives which are offered in the spirit of adaptation for Masses with children (cf. *Directory on Masses with Children* n.50-51).

Many schools have the custom of bringing up symbols of school work and life, either at the beginning of the Mass or at the offertory. Some alternative prayers to accompany this are also suggested.

Please adapt these prayers according to circumstances, and perhaps especially for primary age children.

**Opening Prayer**

(from Mass at the Beginning of the Civil Year)

O God,

who are without beginning or end,

the source of all creation,

grant us so to live this new [school] year,

whose beginning we dedicate to you,

that we may abound in good things

and be resplendent with works of holiness.

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.

**Amen.**

**Alternative Opening Prayer**

Father,

as we gather at the beginning of this new school year,

we ask you to send your Holy Spirit among us:

the Spirit of knowledge and wisdom,

that we may be guided and enlightened in our studies;

the Spirit of good judgement,

that we may make good choices and strong friendships;

the Spirit of courage,

that we may stand up for what is right and be confident to make the best of new opportunities.

May our lives together this year be filled with your Spirit,

as we follow the way of your Son, Jesus Christ;

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

one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Alternative Prayers for the Presentation of Gifts**

*[as symbols of work and study are offered]*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation,

who gather us together as a community in the name of Jesus, your Son.

Today we bring symbols of the work we will do this year:

may we discover more about your universe,

about the peoples who inhabit the world,

and about ourselves,

finding you in all things.

Blessed be God for ever.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*[as work of sport, play, creative art and leisure are offered]*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation,

who through your goodness give us health and friendship,

and the enjoyment of life.

May we always use our talents to bring joy to others

and glory to your name.

Blessed be God for ever.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*[as symbols of school charities, service activities, and other groups are offered]*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,

who call us to be men and women for others,

and to work for a world of peace and justice.

May our minds and hearts,

commit us to works of charity and service,

making us signs of the love of Jesus Christ for his people everywhere.

Blessed be God for ever.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*[as the bread and wine are offered]*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,

for through your goodness we have received the bread and wine we offer you,

work of human hands and fruit of the vine:

it will become for us the bread of life and our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Offertory Prayer**

(from Mass of Holy Spirit)

May the fire of the Spirit, O Lord,

sanctify the sacrificial gifts offered in your sight

just as it enkindled the hearts of the disciples of your Son,

who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Preface**(from Mass of Holy Spirit)

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you bestow gifts suited to every season

and guide the governing of your Church in wonderful ways.

By the power of the Holy Spirit

you come unfailingly to her aid,

so that with a heart always subject to you

she may never fail to seek your help in time of trouble

nor cease to give you thanks in time of joy,

through Christ our Lord.

And so, in company with the choirs of angels,

we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts . . .**

**Prayer after Communion**(from Mass of Holy Spirit)

Lord our God,

who have been please to nourish us with heavenly food,

pour, we pray, the delights of your Spirit

into the recesses of our heart,

that what we have devoutly received in time,

we may possess as a gift for eternity.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Alternative Prayer after Communion**

Lord,

in this eucharist you give us food for our spirits

and blessings for our lives.

In everything we do this year

may we be mindful of the good you call us to do,

the school community of faith, hope and love, you call us to build,

and the studies by which we become more learned and wise,

for your greater glory.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**