



Blessing of Leaders and Badges

Blessing Prayer - Secondary

Our Guiding Light

Preparation

On one side of the stage or sanctuary, the leader has prepared a prayer focus with a cross, significant symbols of the school and the school candle, which is unlit.

An Assistant has been chosen to light the candle and make sure that it is passed along correctly and safely. A tray with the leader badges is placed on a table on the other side of the prayer focus.

At the start of the ceremony, the school Principal and Assistant are placed near the prayer focus, and the leaders are seated. When they are asked to come forward, the leaders are to line up between the prayer focus and the badges.

A Leader 2 (perhaps the Head of Mission, REC, chaplain, etc.) is prepared to bless the badges.

WE GATHER

Introduction

Leader: Today, we gather to recognise our new school leaders for 2022, and strengthen them for their roles with our prayers. They will need our practical and spiritual support to carry out their responsibilities to the best of their ability.

We will also bless and present them with their badges. These badges will be signs of what our leaders are called to do.

Finally, we trust in God, our Good Shepherd, and the Spirit of Wisdom, to guide our leaders throughout this new school year. I invite our new leaders to stand before us.

[Wait for the leaders to stand at the front of the stage/sanctuary.]

Call to Prayer

Leader: We begin by lighting our candle.

[Assistant to light the candle.]

The light of this candle symbolises the Spirit of God, who has given life to our land and its creatures since time began. It has been present in the birth of new species, the ancient ancestors and in every act of love and goodness.

The light of this candle symbolises the light of Christ, who has come into our world to banish the darkness, and to heal and save us. Jesus, our Emmanuel, reminds us that God is always with us.



The light of this candle symbolises the flames of Pentecost, when God's Spirit moved the people to proclaim the Good News. Today it guides us on our journey and gives us passion and inspiration.

We will now pass the candle from our Principal,, to each of our leaders in turn, before it is placed beside the leader badges.

[School Principal takes the candle and passes it to the first leader, who then passes it along the line until every leader has held it. The final leader or Assistant places the candle in front of the tray of badges.]

BLESSING

Leader: Let us now ask God to bless these badges that our leaders will wear.

Leader 2: God of light and love,
Your Son led his followers by giving his life, all the way to the end.
As we make the sign of the cross over these badges,

[Trace a sign of the cross in the air over the badges.]

may they represent the commitment and generosity of our leaders today.
Bless these badges and all who wear them,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: I now invite,, to place the badges on our new leaders.

[Wait until all the leaders have received their badge.]

[The Principal] will now lead us in a blessing for those who wear these badges.

Principal: I invite you to raise your right hand towards our leaders to pray for their blessing.

May God bless you with the light of insight.

All: Amen.

May God bless you with the joy of commitment.

All: Amen.

May God bless you with the spirit of wisdom.

All: Amen.

And may God bless us all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Leader: Let us go to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!