



Blessing of St. John the Baptist Schools

By Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

8th November 2012

Opening hymn Trading my Sorrows

Claire Forde and Senior Boys

I'm trading my sorrows
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord

I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord

Chorus:

We say yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord
Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord
Yes Lord yes Lord yes yes Lord Amen

I'm pressed but not crushed persecuted not
abandoned
Struck down but not destroyed
I'm blessed beyond the curse for his promise will
endure
And his joy's gonna be my strength

Though the sorrow may last for the night
His joy comes with the morning

Archbishop: In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Archbishop: Peace be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Archbishop: Introductory words

**My dear friends, today we ask God to bless
this place of community, of care and of
learning.**

**We thank God for the vision and
dedication of all those who worked hard
for many years to make this place a reality.**

**We pray that all the boys who are pupils in
these schools will experience them as
places of blessing.**

**We also pray that they in turn may be a
blessing to one another.**

**Firstly, we listen to the wisdom of God's
word:**

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Mark

John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn **All the ends of the earth**
Claire Forde and Senior Boys

**All the ends of the earth,
sing a joyful song.
Sing to the Lord,
there is salvation.
All the ends of the earth,
sing a joyful song.
Sing to the Lord,
there is salvation.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord, our God.
For he has worked wonders near and far.
Our God's right hand and holy arm
have brought salvation to the world.
2. The Lord has made his salvation known,
and shown his justice to all lands.
His truth and love he won't forget
for all the house of Israel.
3. Let us sing our praises to our God
with voices blended now in song.
With harp and horn and trumpet sound
acclaim the Lord, our God and King!

INTERCESSIONS:

Archbishop:

On this happy occasion, we put our trust in God's loving kindness towards us and we present our intentions.

Conor Ryan

We pray that our schools will be happy, safe places where each boy will be enabled to unearth his gifts and talents.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Ann Marie Haverty

We pray that God may bless and reward the hard work of all who have made our lovely school buildings a reality.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

David McDermott

We pray that the day will come when every child in the world is blessed with a good education.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Clare Roebuck

We thank God for the gifts of teaching and learning, and for all who work to make a difference in the lives of the pupils of our Schools.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Garret Molloy

We pray that God may bless our parents and guardians for the love and care they give us every day of our lives.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Niamh Hayes

We pray for Archbishop Diarmuid may God grant him courage as Patron of the Catholic Schools in this diocese.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

John O'Sullivan

Guímíd ar son muínteoirí Scoileanna Eoin Baiste atá imithe ar shlí na fírinne.

A Thiarna, éist linn.

A Thiarna, bí ceansa agus éist linn.

Archbishop:

In a moment of silence,
we present to God our own personal prayers.

(pause)

We lift up all that is in our hearts
to God our Father praying the words Jesus
taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven...

PRAYER OF BLESSING OF THE SCHOOL

With hands outstretched, the Archbishop says the prayer of blessing.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin:

We praise and thank you God our Father,
because all good things come from your hand.

Today we come together to ask your blessing on
St John the Baptist Boys' Schools.

May these Schools be places where everyone is
treated with the dignity and respect due to each
child of God.

Bless all the people who make up the living
buildings that are St. John the Baptist Schools -
the pupils, teachers, special needs assistants,

ancillary staff, parents, board members and all
who come through our doors.

We thank you for the unique talents
you have given to each person.

May these schools help these gifts to blossom, in
a warm, positive and caring atmosphere.

May these Schools be places of blessing where
each person can respond to your invitation to
build together a world founded on your justice,
truth and love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*The Archbishop sprinkles the hall with holy water.
It is then passed to two or three people designated
to sprinkle it throughout the two schools.*

*Blessing Prayer for Classrooms St John the Baptist
Junior Boys*

Dear Jesus

We thank you for the gift of this new classroom.

We thank you for these boys and their teacher (and s.n.a.)
who work and play and learn many new things together
here.

CONCLUDING RITE

With hands outstretched over those present, the Archbishop concludes the rite by praying:

**May the Lord bless you and keep you,
Amen.**

**May the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
Amen**

**May he look upon you with kindness
and give you his peace.
Amen.**

**And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father+, and the+ Son, and the Holy+ Spirit,
come upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.**

Archbishop: Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Song If I Were a Butterfly

Ms. M. O'Grady and 2nd class boys

If I were a butterfly
I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings
If I were a robin in a tree
I'd thank you Lord that I could sing
If I were a fish in the sea
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee
But I just thank you Father for making me, me.

Chorus

**For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child
And I just thank you Father for making me, me**

If the Archbishop were a child once more
I bet he'd love to be a Belgrove boy
With a great big classroom with plenty of space
Really, Archbishop, you would love this place
With slide-robe storage so the classroom is neat
An area for art and toilets en-suite
And we just thank you Father for our wonderful school

For you gave us this building
We've got lovely bright rooms
We have interactive whiteboards and they're really cool
And we just thank you Father for our wonderful school.

You are all most welcome to our dedication ceremony which marks a special day for the two schools. This is the culmination of work which started in 1978 and was carried on by countless parents, staff, priests and others – we name two, Ken Moriarty and the late Mgr. Patrick Devine, as representative of the many. We are grateful to all who have contributed to the success of the project, every member of a board of management, parents' association, teacher, design team member, builder, contractor, Department official, public representative, member of the Education Secretariat of the Dublin Diocese, donor, neighbour and friend.

The project required great co-operation as what are in effect two new schools were built while the c750 students, teachers and other members of staff continued as normal. Not a day of teaching was lost during the building work and we will probably see a higher than usual batch of engineers, architects and builders emerge from Clontarf in the coming years! Midland Construction and its contractors were conscious of working in a school environment and helped us by phasing work to match school needs. Neighbours endured traffic disruption, noise and other inconveniences. Our friends in the Girls Schools and Clontarf GAA helped us out with facilities and extra time on the astro when some of our areas were out of action.

The project has been a great success and provides a modern physical infrastructure in which to give our boys world class education, imbued with the Catholic ethos of respect for others, development of the whole person and a strong sense of community. We hope that these St John the Baptist Schools will continue to be “bright and shining light[s]” for bringing out the best in our young men of the future.

Kevin Hoy, John O’Sullivan, Tim O’Mahony and Frankie Byrne