



Aim: To help the child to discover the meaning of the final dialogue, (Dismissal – Sending out), between the people and the priest before we leave the church at the end of Mass.

Room Setting:

All are seated in a circle in the room.

Parent: Welcome the child and the other members of the family.

Invite all to become quiet and think of Jesus and say quietly and very slowly, about 3 times, the words "**The Lord be with you**" and the response, "**And with your spirit.**"

Allow a few minutes for this.

Parent: The Priest also gives us a blessing

Parent: Invite the child and the other members of the family to share what comes to their minds when they hear the words "**May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**"

Parent: Helped freely by the child and other members of the family:

- Can anyone remember and say why we make the Sign of the Cross when these words are said?

Child and other members of the family freely contributing:

- We remind ourselves that Jesus died on the Cross to save us.

Parent Today we are going to have a look at what happens before we leave the church at the end of Mass.

- Can anyone tell us what the Priest and we say to each other at the end of Mass?
- Can we remember the whole of what we say?
- Who would like to take the part of the priest?
- Parent and other members of the family take the roles of priest and people and repeat the dialogue at the end of Mass.
- **Everybody's answer is "Thanks be to God".** The priest may vary what he says, (See Box. If you wish to use the some of the variations. You might use them as a form of Quiz)



After the Blessing the priest says:

Go forth, the Mass is ended

Or

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Or

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord with your life.

Or

Go in peace.

Parent and other members of the family: (P=Parent, M=Family member)

- P. Each thing that the priest says has its roots in the Task that Jesus gave his disciples when he returned to his Father in Heaven at the Ascension. Jesus said to his Disciples:
- M. In the Gospel of Matthew we read how Jesus said: "**Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.**"
- P. So what does the Priest mean when he says: "**Go forth, the Mass is ended**"?
Any or all the family can suggest an answer.
- P. And what does the priest mean when he says: "**Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.**"
Any or all the family can suggest an answer.
And again: what does the priest mean when he says: "**Go in peace**".
Any or all the family can suggest an answer.
- P. **So why do we all say: THANKS BE TO GOD!**
Any or all the family can suggest an answer
- P. We have a special task to do for Jesus!

Celebration

Parent: Let us imagine ourselves at the end of Holy Mass.

Invite one or other of the family to recite, one at a time what the priest says:
After each all say together: **Thanks be to God.**

A glass of cool juice all round!

**GO IN PEACE,
GLORIFYING
THE LORD BY
YOUR LIFE**