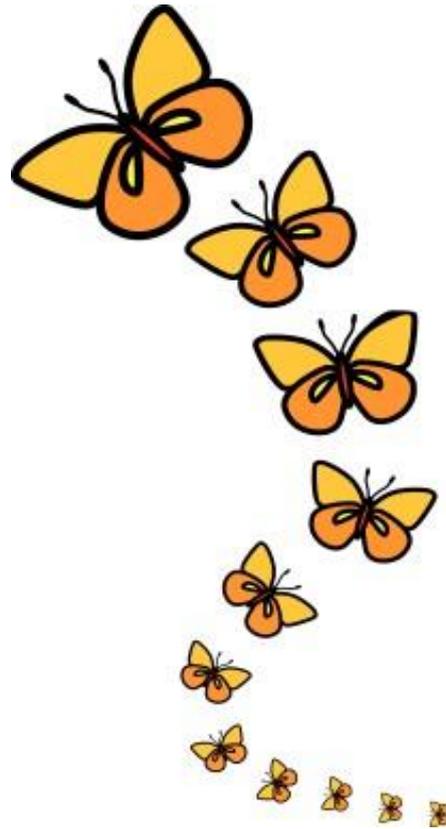


A New Year, a New Beginning



The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.

G. K. Chesterton

To Prepare

You will need:

- *The names of all participating written on slips of paper collected in a basket*

- *The attached sheet photocopied for all participants*
- *Reflective Music*



We are Gathering Together

We are gathering together unto him.
We are gathering together unto him.
Unto him shall the gathering of the people be,
We are gathering together unto him.

We are singing together unto him.
We are singing together unto him.
Unto him shall the singing of the people be,
we are singing together unto him.

Opening Prayer

We move so fast, God, and sometimes we see so little in our daily travels. Slow us down. Create in us a desire to pause. Help us to pursue moments of contemplation. Help us to see in a deeper way, to become more aware, this year of what speaks to us of beauty and truth. May we see in a new way. May we dust off our hearts so that we see what is truly of value and of deep meaning in our lives. Amen



(A basket containing the names of all present is then passed among those gathered. Each person picks a name from the basket and the name that they pick is the person that they pray for during this service.)

Reading 1

Genesis 1; 1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was a vast waste,
darkness covered the deep,
and the Spirit of God
hovered over the surface of the water.
God said: "Let there be light,"
and there was light;
and God saw the light was good,
and He separated the light from darkness.
He called the light day,
and the darkness night.
So evening came, and morning came;
it was the first day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

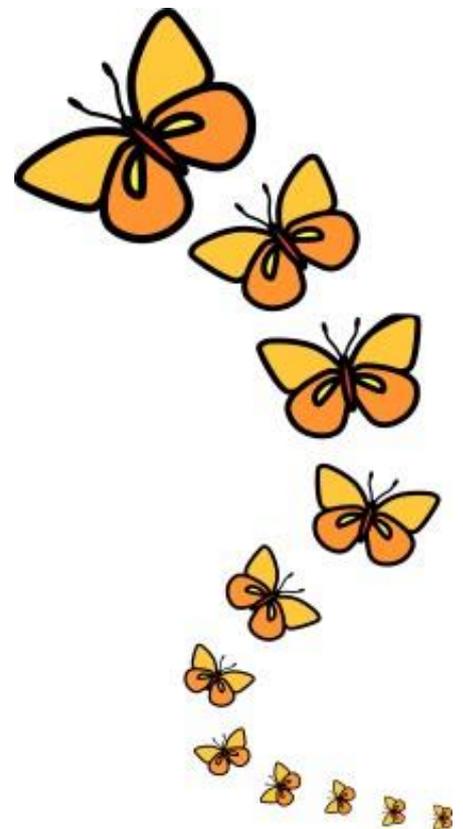
Reading 2 *1 Corinthians 13: 1-13*

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels,
but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong
or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of
prophecy, and know all mysteries and all
knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove
mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor,
and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do
not have love, it profits me nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous;
love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it
does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a
wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with
the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures
all things.

Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done
away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will



be done away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

This is the Word of the Lord

New Year's Resolutions

This is a time for reflection as well as celebration. As you look back on the past year and all that has taken place in your life, Remember each experience for the good that has come of it and for the knowledge you have gained.

Remember the efforts you have made and the goals you have reached.

Remember the love you have shared and the happiness you have brought.

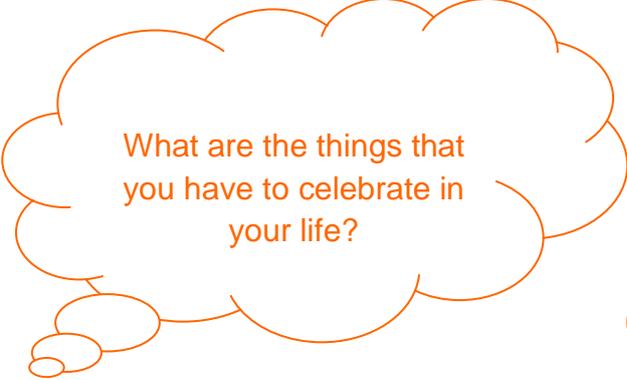
Remember the laughter, the joy, the hard work, and the tears.

And as you reflect on the past year, also be thinking of the new one to come, because most importantly, this is a time for new beginnings and celebration of life.



As you look forward now, reflect on the following questions. When you are finished write your New Years Resolution on the sheet which you received on your way in. The resolutions may then be placed on the Sacred Space.

Reflective Music may be played at this time

A thought bubble with a scalloped border and three smaller circles leading to it from the bottom left.

What are the things that
you have to celebrate in
your life?

A thought bubble with a scalloped border and three smaller circles leading to it from the bottom left.

What changes could you
make in your life so that
you are the best that you
can be?

A thought bubble with a scalloped border and three smaller circles leading to it from the bottom left.

How is your relationship
with God as you look
forward to 2010?

Prayers of Intercession

Response: *Lord hear us*

Loving God, as we begin this New Year may we always be people of kindness and compassion. May we offer friendship, comfort and care to all we encounter this year.

We pray to the Lord. R

Loving God, in this year of 2010 may we have the wisdom to choose what is good and fair and the courage to always do the right thing.

We pray to the Lord. R.

Loving God, we pray for faith that will help pave the way for a present that is hopeful and a future that is peaceful.

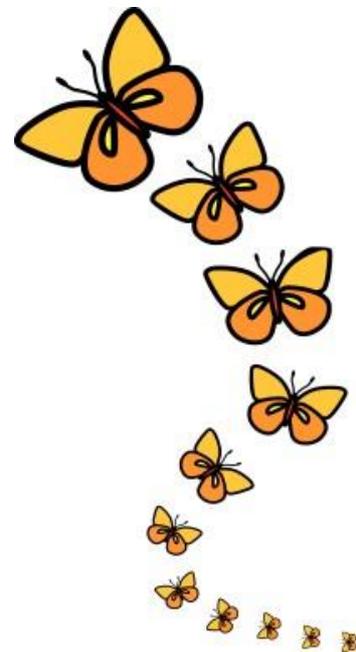
We pray to the Lord. R.

Loving God, may we always search for the good in others and always try to appreciate the joy of life.

We pray to the Lord. R

Loving God, we ask you to protect those who are already struggling this New Year. May they feel the comfort of your presence with them.

We pray to the Lord. R



It is traditional at the beginning of each year to pray for peace so together we say:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
where there is hatred, let me sow love

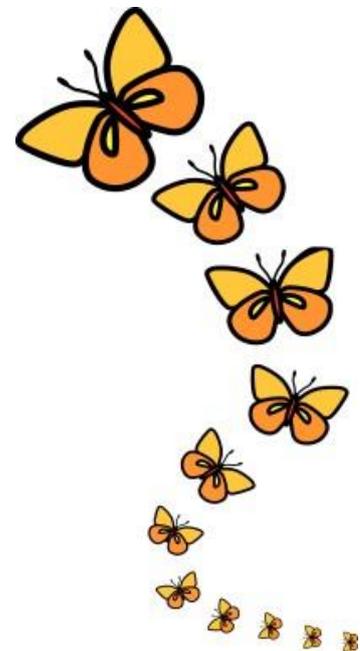
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Oh Master, grant
that I may never seek so much to be consoled
as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



Peace, Perfect Peace

Peace, perfect peace,
is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Peace, perfect peace,
is the gift of Christ our Lord.
"Thus", says the Lord
"Will the world know my friends".
Peace, perfect peace,
is the gift of Christ our Lord.
Love, perfect love...
Faith, perfect faith...
Hope, perfect hope...



Reflection

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows.
We praise you for your unequalled greatness.
Thank you for the year behind us and for the year ahead.

Help us in this new year, to worry less and laugh more.
To teach others to love by loving them.
Knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us.
So that love could be with us, and we could know you.
Thank you for another new year and for new chances every day.
We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others.
Forgive us for falling short this past year.
We leave the past in your hands, and step out into the unknown New Year confident that you will go with us.
We accept your gift of a New Year and we look forward in hope to what's ahead, depending on you to help us to always do the right thing. Amen

Closing Prayer

Loving God, we have gathered today as a school community to celebrate a new calendar year. We ask that this year of 2010 be filled with things that are truly good, with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with strength to help those who need our help and the openness and humility to accept help from others. As we make our resolutions this year let us go forward with great hope that anything is possible with your help and guidance.



Set Your Heart on the Higher Gifts

My

CEIST
Catholic Education
An Irish Schools Trust 

Resolutions for New Year



Prayer for Principals

O God,

We thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

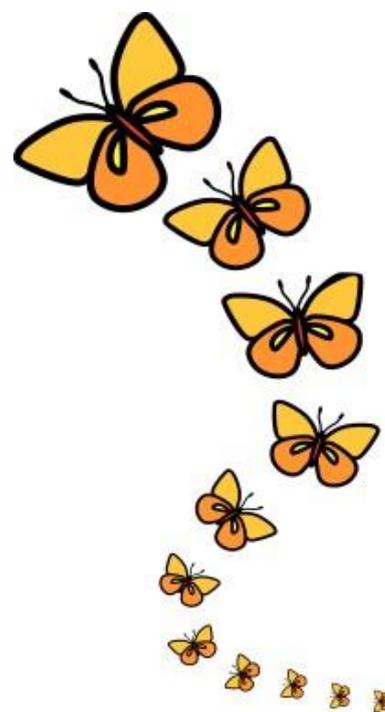
We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendour of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thorn bush is aflame with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be.

Amen

(Anon)



New Year Thoughts for Teachers

Pacem in Terris

"May He banish from the hearts of all men and women whatever might endanger peace.

May He transform them into witnesses of truth, justice and love.

May He enkindle the rulers of peoples so that in addition to their solicitude for the proper welfare of their citizens, they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.

May He enkindle the wills of all so that they may overcome the barriers that divide, cherish the bonds of mutual charity, understand others, and pardon those who have done them wrong.

May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters, and may the most longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always among men and women."

Pope John XXIII

