

# CEIST

Catholic Education  
An Irish Schools Trust



## School Prayers



*“Dear young people, love Jesus Christ more and more!. Our life is a response to his call and you will be happy and will build your life well if you can answer this call. May you feel the Lord’s presence in your life. He is close to you as a companion, as a friend who knows how to help and understand you, who encourages you in difficult times and never abandons you”*

September 2017

[www.ceist.ie](http://www.ceist.ie)



***“Educators...do not be disheartened in the face of difficulties that the educational challenge presents. Educating is not a profession but a way of being. In order to educate it is necessary to step out of ourselves and be among young people, to accompany them in the stages of their growth and to set ourselves beside them. Give them hope and optimism for their journey in the world. Teach them to see the beauty and goodness of creation. But above all with your life be witnesses of what you communicate. Educators – teachers, parents pass on knowledge and values with their words, but their words will have an incisive effect on children and young people if they are accompanied by their witness, their consistent way of life. Without consistency it is impossible to educate”.***

**Pope Francis**



## Foreword

***Prayer is a very simple thing: it is talking to God.***

We don't need special words or religious words because we can pray simply and directly. There are times, 'though, when we would like to have the words already there for us to make praying easier. Jesus gave us the 'Our Father' for such times.

This little book is a gathering of prayers that might be useful for the school year. It will help at times when a prayer will remind us that God is present with us and sharing the journey.

Many thanks to Justin Brown of CEIST for preparing the book.

Remember that no issue is too big or too small to pray about.

**Dr Marie Griffin**



*The oratory in Presentation Secondary School, Rockford Manor, Blackrock. Co. Dublin.*

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# Student Prayer Service

## Light a Candle

*(As the candle is being lit, read this passage aloud):*

'People of goodness do not need to bestow blessing; instead they become a blessing. Their presence is goodness and they engender new life, strength, courage and vitality by their presence. That was exactly how Jesus blessed the people around him'.

*Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy*



## Opening Prayer

Loving God, at the beginning of this new school year we ask you to bless us, the students, our teachers and staff of this school, that together we may grow in faith, hope and love as we learn from you and each other how to follow your Son, Jesus.

## Scripture Reading

**Mark 12:28-31**

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God**

We take a moment to think about someone or something that might be making us anxious about the year ahead.....**Pause**

We take a chance to think about someone or something that is helping to make this new school year an enjoyable experience.....**Pause**

We take time to reflect on what can we do to make this school year a positive experience for ourselves and others.....**Pause**

*(You could invite the students to write one hope for the year on a piece of paper which they could place in the centre or in a basket with gentle music in the background.)*

## Reflection

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!' So I went forth and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

## Intercessions

1. Lord, guide us on our way and protect us as we journey together through this school year.  
**Response: Let us know that you are with us every step of the way.**
2. Lord, keep our families and friends in your loving embrace and help us to love one another.  
**Response: Let us know that you are with us every step of the way.**
3. Lord, as we face challenges during the year, guide us with your light.  
**Response: Let us know that you are with us every step of the way.**

## Closing Prayer

### *Together we pray:*

Loving God, we entrust ourselves to you. Daily guide our minds and hearts so that we will work for the good of our school community and be a help to all people. Teach us to be generous in our outlook, courageous in face of difficulty, and wise in our decisions. We ask this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Resources Used**

Meeting at Prayer: Ways for Groups to pray together, Kerry Diocesan Liturgy Committee



Blessings and Prayers:  
For Home and Family,  
Canadian Conference of  
Catholic Bishops  
[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Reflections,  
Collated by Anne M. Holton

## Staff Prayer Service

'The future depends on what we do in the present'.

– Mahatma Ghandi

### Light a Candle

*As the candle is being lit, read this passage aloud:*

Jesus said 'You are the light of the world'. May the light of the candle and the warmth of its flame fill our hearts with the light and warmth of God's love.

May we share this light and warmth with each other.



### Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and minds to new colleagues and new students. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our sharing and the courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new academic year. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

### Penitential Rite

There are times when we make mistakes or do things that are not helpful to ourselves or others. Aware of God's forgiveness, we ask for the strength and courage to move forward and be the light of the world.

- For the mistakes I have made, Lord, forgive me.
- When I am selfish and unloving, Christ, forgive me.
- When I find it difficult to do the right thing. Lord, give me your strength and courage.

### Scripture Reading

*A reading from a letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

This then is what I pray, kneeling before the Father: In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable your inner selves to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and

built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth: so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God. Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or image; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Response: Thanks be to God**

## **Intercession Prayers**

We pray that our school will always be a place of welcome, where all students, staff and parents feel valued and included. Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

We pray for all those who are sick. We also remember their family and friends and we ask God to give them strength and comfort at this time of need.

Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

We pray for our colleagues and all the office staff, caretakers and cleaning staff in our school who work to make our time in this school a happy one.

Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

We remember all those in our school community who have lost loved ones. We pray that the Lord will comfort them in their loss. Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

We pray for all the members of our founding congregation who gave so much of their lives unselfishly and who helped to make our school a life-giving place to be. Lord hear us.

**Response: Lord Graciously Hear Us.**

## **Closing Prayer**

Lord God, your Spirit of wisdom fills our lives and teaches us your ways. Look upon our young people. May they enjoy their learning and take delight in new discoveries. Help them to persevere in their studies and give them the desire to learn all things well.

Look upon our teachers. May they strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavour always to bring the truth to eager minds.

## September Prayer

We thank you Lord, for all that was good during the summer,  
For the love of our family and friends,  
And for the sunshine and warm days.

As we begin a new school year we ask for your help and pray your blessing on  
everybody in this school.

Show us how to work together for the good of all.

May we share our talents and abilities to the full and grow in knowledge,  
wisdom and happiness.

Give us the grace to become more like Jesus in the ways we think and behave.

During this school year let us become builders of your ways and instruments of  
your peace.

We ask this school year blessing through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



*First Year students as they start school in  
Coláiste Iosagáin, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.*

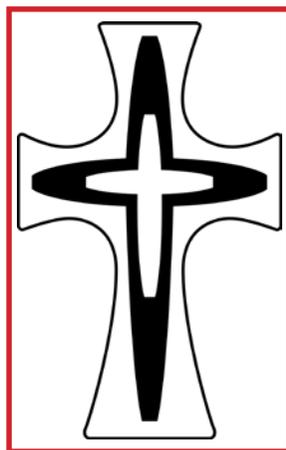
# Mercy Day

24th September

On this day in 1827, the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, Catherine McAuley opened the first House of Mercy in Baggot St. Dublin, as a place of safety and refuge, for poor women.

Mother Frances Warde, one of the first Sisters of Mercy, wrote of Catherine that: "She was a woman of God and God made her a woman of vision".

Since then, throughout the world, thousands of young women (and indeed, more recently, young men) have been educated in Mercy schools, the sick have been cared for in Mercy hospitals and the poor have been cared for by Mercy sisters.



**We pray today that, like Catherine, we too may learn "to see the world and its people in terms of God's love; to love everyone who needs love; to care for everyone who needs care".**

**We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.**

Catherine McAuley

God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Catherine McAuley and her unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the Mercy tradition we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Mercy Sisters which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

# Daughters of Charity

**27th September**

Deeply moved by the poverty and suffering all around him in Paris in the 1600s, Vincent de Paul reached out to those in need through simple acts of kindness.

In time he invited Louise de Marillac to join in his work by organizing a group of ladies to go out into the streets of Paris and care for the poor and the sick. These Daughters of Charity worked in hospitals, schools and orphanages.

Today we celebrate the work of the Daughters of Charity and their founding saints, Vincent and Louise.

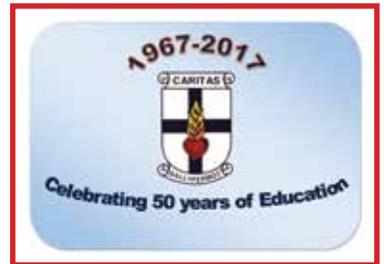


**Let us pray one of St. Louise's simple, but sensible, prayers and, repeating it during the day, ask God to:**

**"Grant me the grace to spend this day without offending You and without failing my neighbour". Amen.**

*(St. Louise de Marrillac)*

God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Saints Vincent De Paul and Louise de Marillac and their unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the tradition of the Daughters of Charity we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Daughters of Charity which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



# New Board of Management

**15th October**

As we begin our work as a Board of Management we turn to you O Lord, for it is your work that we do, the work of your Gospel.

Over the course of the next three years we ask that we not be too quick with our judgements and interpretations. May we open to your wisdom and to see with your eyes.

We ask that we be guided by the CEIST Charter and our five values which we hold dear.

May we not be so absorbed in our tasks that we forget those we serve – students, staff and parents. May the way in which we carry out our work enhance their experience of our school. May it be a place of peace, charity and understanding.

Lord, as the ground and goal for all that we do we ask you to bless us, our families and our work.

Amen.



*The Board of Management of Ardscoil Na Tríonóide, Athy at their inaugural meeting of their three year term.*

## Autumn Prayer

O God, of Creation, you have blessed us  
With the changing of the seasons.

As we embrace these autumn months,  
May the earlier setting of the sun  
Remind us to take time to rest.

May the crunch of the leaves beneath our feet  
Remind us of the brevity of this earthly life.

May the scurrying of the squirrels  
And the migration of the birds  
Remind us that you call us to follow your will.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.  
Amen.



# Jules Chevalier and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

**21st October**



Jules Chevalier founded the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in 1854 to bring the Good News of God's love to all people. He believed all our lives could be enriched by a spirituality centred on the heart of Jesus which was so full of love, compassion and understanding.

God, our Father, we pray that we may get to know your Son better each day, and that like Him we may always try to listen to others, to accept them as they are and not to expect everyone to be as we think they should be. May your Holy Spirit fill us with the compassion and wisdom in the choices we make today. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Jules Chevalier and his unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the tradition of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their



*Students from Coláiste an Chroí Naofa,  
Carraig na bhGFear, Co. Cork.*

lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

## In November We Remember

We gather at this time of year to recall with gratitude those who have passed away and whose memory is dear to us. We remember family, friends, staff members and students who have been part of our school community.

We pray for those who are grieving. Our grief is a sign of our deep love for those we have lost. We ask God to comfort those who mourn and touch the depth of their sadness with tenderness and a sense of peace. We call on our Mother, Mary to comfort those of us who grieve.

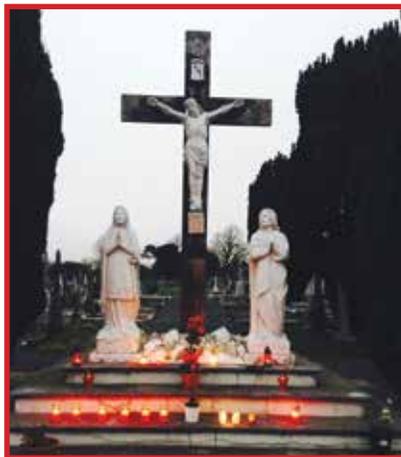


*The school community in Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy mark November, the month of the Holy Souls.*

God, our Father,

As we remember those who have gone before us this November there is sadness in our hearts as they are no longer with us. Give us the comfort of knowing that they have gone only as far as you and you are very near.

Amen.



# Feast Day of Anthony Receveur

**19th November**

At the time of the French Revolution in 1789 Anthony Receveur founded the Sisters of the Christian Retreat. Their aim is to awaken an alienated world to God through reflection, prayer and retreat. This objective is embodied in their approach to Catholic Education.

**“We are in the way of Him who is himself our way.  
In the school of Him who is himself the truth.**

**In the company of Him who is himself our life.”**

*Fr. Anthony Receveur*



God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Anthony Receveur and his unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the tradition of the Sisters

of the Christian Retreat, we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Sisters which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



*Guests at the celebration to mark the  
50th Anniversary of Holy Rosary College,  
Mountbellew.*

# Presentation Day

**21st November**



Nano Nagle wanted to help the poor she saw around her in Cork. Determined to help to educate them, both to improve their lives and to deepen their faith, in spite of the dangers she faced because of the Penal Laws, she opened her first school in 1754 with an enrollment of thirty-five girls in a two-room cabin.

Nano taught the children during the day and visited and nursed the sick by night. As a result, she became known in Cork as the Lady with the Lantern.

Believing that this work must be continued after her death, Nano founded the congregation now known as the Presentation Sisters in 1775.

Since then the Presentation Sisters have educated young people and cared for the sick and the poor all over the world.

**We pray today: that we may always try to follow Nano's example. When she wanted to help others she didn't look around her and say "I can't do anything, too many people need help". She responded to the needs of those she could do something for. Help us, like her, to do the best we can, where we are, each day of our lives.**

**We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

God, our Father, we reflect upon your call to Nano Nagle and their unwavering response to you. As a CEIST school in the Presentation tradition we pray that ours may always be a place in which the light of faith will burn brightly and in which our students will be inspired by Gospel Values and come to know you in their lives. May we be ever mindful of the tradition of the Presentation Sisters which we have entrusted to embrace and carry into the future. Bless us with the wisdom to always allow your Holy Spirit to lead us in our work here. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



## Advent / Christmas Prayer

Advent itself is a time when we prepare for the coming of Christ. As we light each of the candles on the wreath over the next few weeks we reflect on what Advent means in our own lives.

The Wreath is an important Advent symbol. It is made in the form of a ring. The ring is a symbol of eternity, since it has no beginning or end. It acts as a symbol for God who has no beginning or end.

Advent is a time of waiting. We often find ourselves waiting for things in life, sometimes with impatience and sometimes in excited anticipation. Advent is a time when we look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ.

Preparations for Christmas can be busy. Unfortunately, rather than being a time of quiet reflection, during which we look forward to the Light of Christ coming into the world, these few weeks can become a time of hectic preparation for a very commercial Christmas!

But Advent is the time to come and rest, to find comfort and peace in our God.

God our Father, you loved us so much that you sent your only Son into the world to be our savior and friend. Bless us as we wait for the coming of your Son. Open our hearts so that we may recognize him when he comes and make him welcome - whatever form he might take. We make this prayer through your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Christmas Prayer

Dear Lord,  
You were born, unexpectedly, bringing light in the darkness of winter. Help us to become aware of our own light, gifted from God.



Guide us to see the opportunities this Christmas to be an unexpected light for others. Through our actions let us use our gifts unselfishly, to brighten the days of those around us.

Let us be grateful for all that has been gifted to us by sharing it freely with others, to build community, in Jesus' name. Amen.

# New Year Prayer

## *January*

God of our yesterdays, our todays and our tomorrows, thank you for the year behind us and for the year ahead.

Help us in this New Year to worry less and to laugh more. Help us to remember that when Jesus was born in a stable he came for us that we could know you better.

Thank you for another new year and for new chances every day. We pray for peace, hope, respect and justice that we might share them with others.

Amen.



# Prayer for Catholic Schools Week

**February**

Father,

You gave us your Son as a beacon of hope for all people. As Teacher, he has given us the prime example of the importance of education. We look to him for inspiration and strength.

Thank you for the many sisters, brothers, priests, and lay people who have dedicated their lives in service to our Catholic schools.

Thank you for the teachers and support staff who sustain our schools today.

Thank you for the parents who have given witness to the importance of Catholic education in their daily lives.

Thank you for the students who work hard to further their education.

Bless our school and the many people who advance our mission.

May our building be a home for those who seek to grow in faith, knowledge, and service of others.

May our community always support one another and exhibit hospitality to newcomers.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,

Amen.



*Representatives from some of the CEIST schools at our annual Student Leadership Conference.*

# Prayer for Lent / Easter

## Prayer for Lent

God, our Father and Creator,  
Each year you bless us with  
the season of Spring

And fill the world around us  
with new life:

Lambs are born, birds build  
nests, flowers appear and  
new leaves clothe the trees.  
For all these beautiful things  
we thank you.



*Students of Mercy College, Tuam  
with their Lenten Garden.*

Lord Jesus,

Each springtime you bless us with the Season of Lent, to bring new life to our hearts and souls and minds.

You call us to open our hands generously to help others, to open our minds to the goodness of others. To open our hearts to the needs of others and to open to our souls in prayer to you.

During this Lent help us Lord Jesus to answer your call and to become more and more like you. Amen.

## Easter Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help us Lord to keep the Easter message in our hearts.

When all seems dark, draw our attention to the rising Son.

When we reflect on the past, guide us to celebrate the new growth it cultivated.

Let us draw on the example of Jesus' leadership, when we fear like the apostles did.

Build our strength for each new beginning in Your name, Amen.



*Mount St. Anne's, Killenard  
as Easter Sunday Dawns.*

## Prayer for Students doing Exams

Dear Lord,

As students prepare to take their exams we remind ourselves that their value is not based on their performance or results.

Help them not only with this test but the many tests of life that are sure to come their way.

Help them to remain focused and calm, confident in their facts and ability and firm in the knowledge that no matter what happens today you are there with them.



We also think of the parents and families of our exam students who will also experience the stresses and strains of this period. May they be blessed with patience, understanding and resilience.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



*Leaving Cert Students from  
Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spideal  
after they completed their Irish, Paper 1.*

## End of School Year Prayer

We thank you, Lord God,

For all what was good during the past school year,  
Both the things we remember and the things we have forgotten.

We ask you to continue to take care of us during the Summer holidays,  
Keep us safe from harm, protect us from danger.



Help us to enjoy the long hours of sunlight  
And be glad of the company of family and friends.

We pray for all in this school community –  
May they have a happy Summer.

And when September comes round,  
May we be glad to meet together again.



*The holidays begin for these students from Calasanctius College, Oranmore on the last day of school.*

## Student Prayers at Exam Time

Lord, as I face into examination time,  
I turn once more to you, asking for your blessing and assistance.

I ask you to give me peace of mind with a strong sense of work at this time.  
May I give myself space and time to revise and prepare to sit my examinations.

Help me to keep focused on this task and not get too distracted by other aspects of my life.

Keep me from getting into a panic and help me to do justice to all my work and preparations.

On the days of my examinations, keep me calm, help me to think clearly, and understand what I'm being asked, and so to recall the study and work that I have put in this past year.

Above all, Lord, I ask that you will allow my efforts to bring about the life you have planned for me.

May I be open to your vision of what you wish for me and may I accomplish this now and in my future life.

Amen.

Lord, As I prepare to sit my exams  
send your Holy Spirit to guide me  
and be with me.

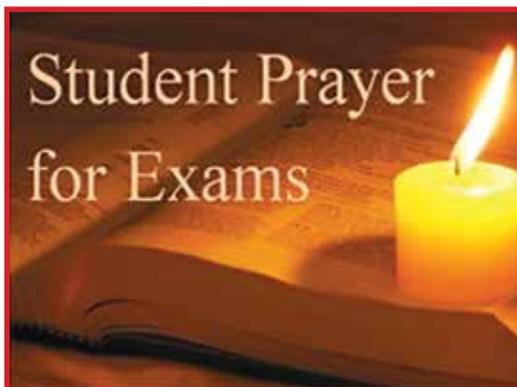
Thank you for the many talents and  
gifts you have given me and for  
the opportunity of education.

Keep me calm.

Help me to remember all that I have studied, to express it clearly and to the answer the questions the best I can.

Give me peace, understanding and wisdom and be with me today and always.

Amen.



## Graduation Prayer

God, thank you for all you do for me. You have guided me all these years in secondary school, and I pray that you continue to be with me as I head into this new time in my life. I pray that I continue to feel your presence and have your strength with me as I head off into my future ventures. I ask for your guidance and discernment as I face complicated decisions and grow into the Christian you desire me to be.



I also ask that you bestow your blessings and love over my friends and family as we go through a time of transition. I ask that you keep us safe. I ask that you make sure we feel loved and protected. Lord, I ask for the words to let them know they are cared for and that I appreciate them.

And Lord, I thank you for being here with me in this time. I do not know what the future brings, but you do. I pray for the confidence to go after your plans for me with all my heart. I thank you for giving me the opportunities to fulfil those plans.

Amen.



*Two Leaving Certificate Students from Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise following their Graduation Mass.*

## Teachers Prayers

Lord Jesus,

You came among us as a Teacher to share with us the Good News of the Father's infinite love.

In sharing your compassion and wisdom, you opened the eyes of the blind and unblocked the ears of the deaf.

May we who are also privileged to teach, learn from your compassion and wisdom, so that we too may encourage our students to see and celebrate their gifts and support them in hearing and heeding the truth that will set them free.

As teachers may we always be willing to learn from your example of gentle service, may we become sources of hope and enthusiasm for the young people in our care and may our work in school be always guided by the inspiration of your Spirit. Amen.



*Teachers from Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin  
at the CEIST Induction Day  
for new teachers in Portlaoise.*

Lord Jesus,

Guide us in our work so that the young people before us may grow to become all that you have called them to be.

May our teaching encourage them to embrace life in all its beauty and mystery. May our patience with them allow them to learn from their mistakes.

May our listening to them help them to respect themselves and others.

Through the gift of your Spirit inspire us to love what we do, to be a support to one another and to never give up on a child in our care.

Amen.

## Prayer for Student Councils

Dear Lord,

God, the source of all our gifts,  
You have called us to serve in  
a special way in our school,  
Grant us the light of your  
Spirit to guide us in our  
responsibilities as a School  
Council.

May we listen to one another  
in a spirit of genuine respect  
May we encourage and  
develop one another's  
unique talents.

May we use the gifts of the Spirit in creative Christian leadership  
May we approach our decision making through discernment and prayer  
May we respond and support the students we represent.  
May we engage with all in school to build your community.

Help us to respond as a council, with the love of the Father, the example of  
Jesus, and guidance of the Spirit in our hearts.

Amen.



*The Student Council in Coláiste Bríde,  
Enniscorthy.*



*The Student Council in Scoil Dara, Kilcock.*

## Sporting Prayer

God, you are the source of life and leisure, you take delight in seeing us enjoy the gifts you have given.

For the surge of a runner, we thank you

For the hands of a hurler we thank you

For the speed of a sliotar we thank you

For the flight of a football we thank you

For the glory of a goal, we thank you

For the brilliance of the basket we thank you

For the wonder of winning, we thank you

For the lesson of losing, we thank you

Lord, help us to handle well the pain of injury and the disappointment of defeat  
May we draw satisfaction from doing our best, win, lose or draw.

By using the talents you have given us, may we give you the greatest of pleasure.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



*Students from  
Presentation Waterford  
celebrate their  
U16 All Ireland Basketball win.*



*Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore winners of The Harty Cup.*

## Prayers before an Interview Process

Loving God, we ask you to be with us today as we face an important decision making moment.

May we use the gifts of wisdom, courage and right judgement which we received from your Spirit.

May this process today bring out the best in the candidates that we will interview and may our selection process be fair and just.

At the end of today may we have found the best person for our school community.

Be with us Lord.

Amen.



And so this morning, we bring to our work recognition that you, Lord, are the ground and the goal, the inspiration of all that we do.

In this awareness may we do our work today carefully yet joyfully.

May we not be too quick with our judgements, our agenda, our interpretations.

May we pause patiently, to be open to your wisdom, to see with your eyes.

And may we not be so absorbed in our tasks that we forget those whom we serve – the Trustees, the Board of Management, staff, students and parents with whom and for whom we work on this process.

May the way in which we carry out our work today reflect your Gospel values, we ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

# Prayers for Board of Management Meetings

## Introduction:

○ God, come to our aid.  
○ Lord, make haste to help us.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen Alleluia.



## John 14:1-4

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## Concluding Prayer:

Risen Christ, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting. Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace as we make decisions that might affect the community, students, staff, visitors and friends of this school. And continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of humanity. We ask these things in your name.  
Amen.

*(Adapted from <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/5080/prayer-before-a-meeting>)*

## Prayers for Board of Management Meetings

Today, Lord, we ask that in our work as members of Boards of Management of CEIST schools we may always be mindful of Your call and of the fundamental guiding principle that the goal of our schools is the formation of the human person.

May each of our schools nourish and the support the spirituality of each person, inspiring them to be fully alive human beings with hope and joy in their lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



*The Board of Management of Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin.*

Lord God,

We give thanks for the opportunity to serve this school community.

May we use the gifts you have given us generously for the good of all who are teaching and learning here.

Guide us in our work of creating a place of faith and learning where each person feels welcome and comes to know that they have something to contribute to the beautiful enterprise that is the education of the young.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Prayers for Board of Management Meetings

Lord, we pray that our meeting tonight  
Was a humble and sincere effort  
To listen to many voices  
About the many concerns  
That affect our school community.

We pray that we also listened to Your Spirit in our hearts  
When difficult decisions had to be made.  
Thank you for the Spirit of right judgement  
The Spirit of discernment and courage.

May the consensus we reached be a gift  
An acorn that will  
Grow and achieve its potential  
For all who teach and learn here.

Amen.



# Prayer on the occasion of a death

## Opening Prayer

Compassionate God, we come to you tonight at this very sad time for our school community. \_\_\_\_\_ touched our lives by his/her presence here with us. Life is a series of beginnings and endings. Comfort us as we cope with this ending and lead \_\_\_\_\_ into a new beginning in the shadow of your love.



## Reading:

**Matthew 11:28-30**

Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

## Prayers of Intercession

**Response: Hear our Prayer**

For \_\_\_\_\_ who has died and is on his/her way to you, Lord. Give him/her the fullness of life and happiness. In your mercy....

For those who are mourning the loss of \_\_\_\_\_. Give them strength in the days ahead and help them to feel your healing presence. In your mercy....

For our school community. May we remember with joy the life of \_\_\_\_\_ and be grateful for the gift of his/her presence here with us. In your mercy ...

## Closing Prayer

O Lord, support us all the day long,  
Until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.  
Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging,  
A holy rest, and peace at last:  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Reflections



OUR EFFORTS AT EDUCATION WILL BE INADEQUATE AND INEFFECTUAL UNLESS WE STRIVE TO PROMOTE A NEW WAY OF THINKING ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS, LIFE, SOCIETY AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE. OTHERWISE, THE PARADIGM OF CONSUMERISM WILL CONTINUE TO ADVANCE, WITH THE HELP OF THE MEDIA AND THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE WORKINGS OF THE MARKET...

THE RICH HERITAGE OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY, THE FRUIT OF TWENTY CENTURIES OF PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL EXPERIENCE, HAS A PRECIOUS CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE RENEWAL OF HUMANITY...

SOCIAL PROBLEMS MUST BE ADDRESSED BY COMMUNITY NETWORKS AND NOT SIMPLY BY THE SUM OF INDIVIDUAL GOOD DEEDS...

THE ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT LASTING CHANGE IS ALSO A COMMUNITY CONVERSION...

*Laudato Si, par. 215-219*

## Pope Francis:

Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him.

The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients.

10th May, 2014

*Address to Italian teachers, parents, educators, pupils*

## Psalm 138

I give you thanks with all my heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;  
I bow down before your holy temple.  
I give thanks to your name  
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;  
for exalted above all are your name and your word.  
On the day I called, you answered me;  
you increased the strength of my soul.  
All the earth's rulers shall praise you  
for they have heard the words of your mouth;  
they shall sing of your ways  
for great is your glory, O God.



Though you are high, you look on the lowly  
and the haughty you know from afar.  
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life;  
you stretch out your hand and save me.  
You will fulfil your purpose for me;  
your steadfast love endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.



**Scripture:**  
**2 Cor 3:17-18**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



**(Pause for Reflection)**

Let us all join together to say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father .....

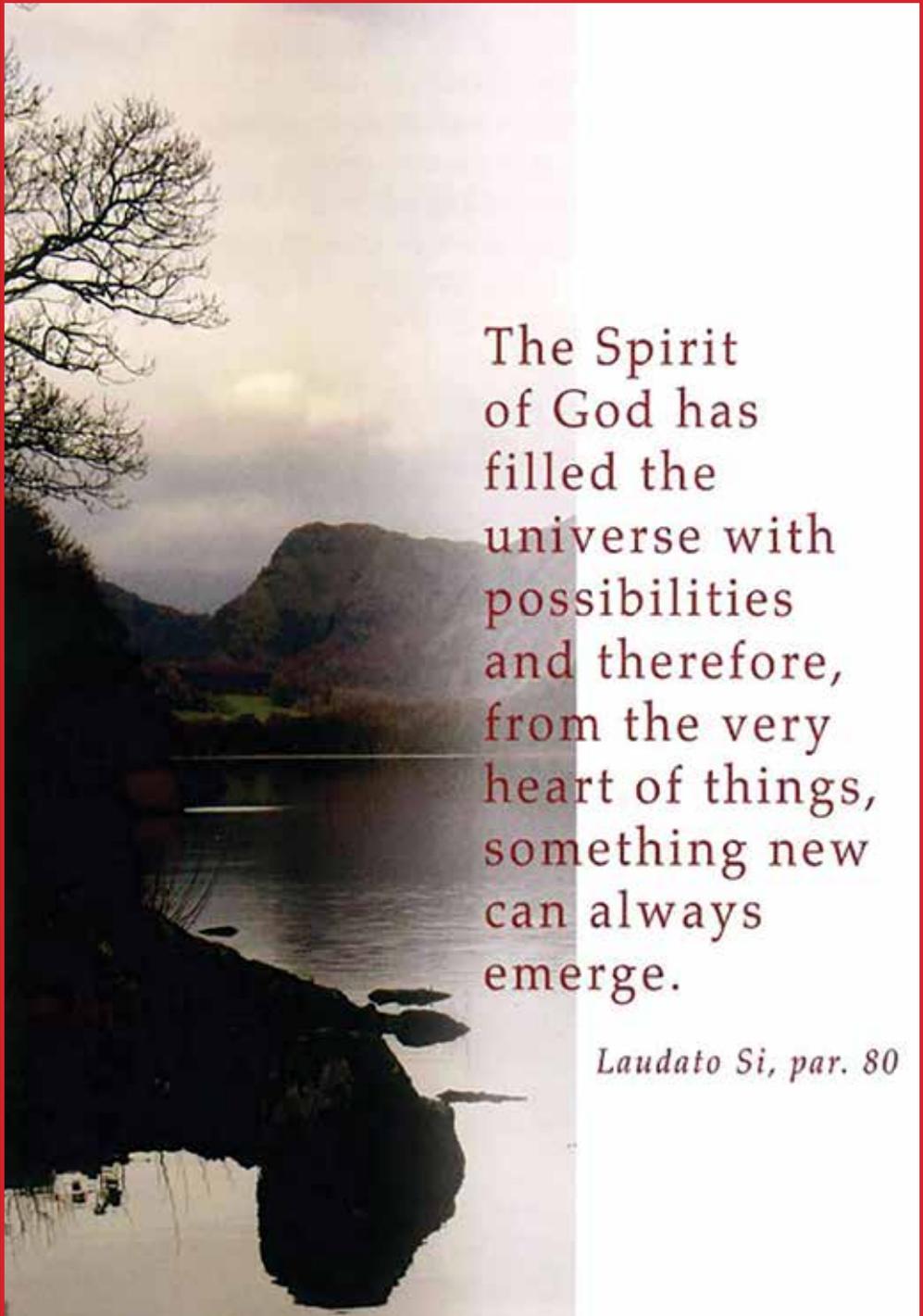


**Prayer:**

We pray, mindful of men and women throughout human history who allowed the Spirit of Life to work in them for the betterment of our world and humanity.

For their lives and their inspiration, we give thanks.  
Amen.





The Spirit  
of God has  
filled the  
universe with  
possibilities  
and therefore,  
from the very  
heart of things,  
something new  
can always  
emerge.

*Laudato Si, par. 80*

## Psalm 148

Praise God from the heavens,  
Praise God in the heights!  
Praise God, all you angels,  
Praise God, you heavenly hosts!

Praise God, sun and moon,  
Praise God, shining stars.  
Praise God, highest heavens,  
And the waters above the heavens!

Mountains and all hills,  
Fruit trees and all cedars!  
Beasts, wild and tame,  
Reptiles and birds on the wing!

All earth's rulers and peoples,  
Leaders and those of renown!  
Young men and women,  
The old together with children!



### Scripture:

And I heard a loud voice saying, "Look, God's dwelling place is now among the people and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and He himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

### Prayer:

We open now to the mystery of Life, knowing this adventure to be a journey back to the ever present source discovered in our own depths, and a forward journey toward a new heaven and a new Earth, which is being born through us, and know above all and below all that this is not a path to God, but a path in God.

We celebrate this great adventure.

Amen.

*\*Reflections on Laudato Si are taken from Praying In a New Time,  
Christian Brothers European Province, 2015.*

## Climate Blessing

We Hold the Earth.

We hold brothers and sisters who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change.

We hold all species that suffer.

We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life.

We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions.

We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of our brothers and sisters and say we are doing our part to care for them and the future of their children.

This we know all things are connected, like the blood which unites one family. Our God is the same God, whose compassion is equal for all.

For we do not weave the web of life, we are merely a strand to it.

Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.

Let us give thanks for the web in the circle that connects us.

Thanks be to God, the God of all.



## New Beginnings

Blessed are you, Creator, God of new beginnings.

For you challenge us to constantly move beyond our pasts

And call us into fresh possibilities for the future.

Blessed are you, Lord of the impossible,

For you never get discouraged and never cease to hope,

Believe and strive for a happier, fairer and wiser world.

Blessed are you, God of the covenant,

For you make promises and never break them,

For you trust us to do good and love us when we fail,

And you daily renew our confidence and courage.

God of unconditional love, help us to believe in ourselves as you believe in us.

Help us to see our potential as you see it.

Constantly provide us with the new opportunities which your covenant promises and inspire us with the dreams to follow new paths of potential growth and goodness.



*Photos are from The mass to mark the opening of the new CEIST school in Galway, Our Lady's College.*

# A Prayer for Justice and Peace

## Scripture

I was hungry and you gave me food to eat.  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear.

I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.

*Mat 25: 35-36*



*The Youth Conference of Saint Vincent De Paul in Presentation, Wexford.*

In lives where love has been born this day

Thanks be to you, O God.

In families where forgiveness has been strong

Thanks be to you.

In nations where wrongs have been addressed,

Where tenderness has been cherished and where visions for earth's oneness have been served

Thanks be to you.

May those who are weary find rest.

May those who carry burdens for their people find strength.

May the midwives of new beginnings in our world find hope.

And may the least among us find strength on our souls, worth in our words, love in our living.

Amen.

*Praying with the Earth, John Philip Newell.*

## A Blessing for one who holds power

May the gift of leadership awaken in you as a vocation  
Keep you mindful of the providence that calls you to serve.

As high over the mountains the eagle spreads its wings,  
May your perspective be larger than the view from the foothills.

When the way is flat and dull in terms of grey endurance,  
May your imagination continue to evoke horizons.

When thirst burns in times of drought  
May you be blessed to find the wells.

May you have the wisdom to read time clearly  
And know when the seed of change will flourish.

In your heart may there be a sanctuary  
For the stillness where the clarity is born.

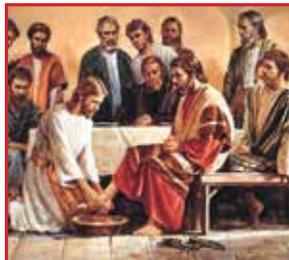
May your work be infused with passion and creativity  
And have the wisdom to balance compassion and challenge.

May your soul find the graciousness  
To rise above the fester of small mediocrities.

May your power never become a shell  
Wherein your heart would silently atrophy.

May you welcome your own vulnerability  
As the ground where healing and truth join.

May integrity of soul be your first ideal,  
The source that will guide and bless your work.



*John O'Donoghue*



*Reach for Resilience*

**PRAY, HOPE  
AND DON'T  
WORRY**

**It's ok not to feel ok  
and it's ok to ask for help!**

*Nua na Ríoga*  
COLLEGE Naas

*The school motto of St. Mary's College, Naas.*



# CEIST

Catholic Education  
An Irish Schools Trust



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