

CEIST Prayer Service
Opening of School Year
2019/2020





Welcome

We gather today to prepare for our new academic year.

Let us join in prayer for a healthy, happy and positive year ahead for every member of our school community. We welcome all our new first years and pray that they will find warmth and acceptance here and will become a vital part of our school in their time here. We welcome back all other year groups and ask God's blessings for you all too. We welcome back all our teachers and ancillary staff and offer a special welcome to new staff. We pray that each one of us will find a place to share our unique gifts and talents while here.

Lord we thank you for this wonderful school and we prepare ourselves by asking that you accept us with all our faults and failings as we pray:

- **Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace. Lord, have mercy. **R:** Lord, have mercy.
- **Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary. Christ, have mercy. **R:** Christ, have mercy.
- **Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father. Lord, have mercy. **R:** Lord, have mercy.

First Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

It is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live.

This is the Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 99*

Response: *My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life.*

1. Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God.



Response

2. My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God?

Response

3. I would lead the rejoicing crowd
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving.

Response

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Teach me your paths, my God, make me walk in your truth.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 10:46-52

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection on the Gospel



Jesus of Nazareth was all about showing us what is hidden in plain sight. His ministry revolved around a conviction that God's kingdom is close at hand, right before our eyes. We must become aware of where God is always at work in our everyday lives - something most people never seem to notice. They presume God is securely ensconced in heaven, not active here on earth. That's why Jesus asks a repentance of those who receive this good news. We must go through a 'metanoia', a complete change of value system. We must love one another not belittle or disrespect those around us. We can all be blind to our own failings and so God invites us to open our eyes in faith.

Notice what Jesus says to Bartimaeus. We expect him to say, "Receive your sight!" but instead, he simply tells him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." We too can and will be saved if we simply and honestly put our faith in God.

Prayers of Intercession:

1. For our Christian family, that God may watch over us and care for us. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

2. For our global family, that God may bring about peace and harmony. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

3. For our school family, that God may bless us with an education that feeds both our academic and spiritual selves. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

4. For our own family, that God will guide us during happy times as well as during challenging times. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

5. For the members of our families and our school community that are ill, in mind, in body or in spirit. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

6. For our family and community members that are no longer with us. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



Closing Prayer

Grant us, O Lord, to know what is worth knowing, to love what is worth loving, to praise what delights you most, to value what is precious in your sight, and to hate what is offensive to you. Do not let us judge by what we see, nor pass sentence according to what we hear, but to judge rightly between things that differ. Amen. (Thomas à Kempis: 1380-1471).

*We thank God for the people who make our school a happy and supportive place. We are proud to be part of the Ceist school community, where we are reminder of Gospel values that are life-giving and inclusive. May we go now in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord. **R: Amen***