



# CEIST

Catholic Education  
An Irish Schools Trust



School Prayers  
for all occasions



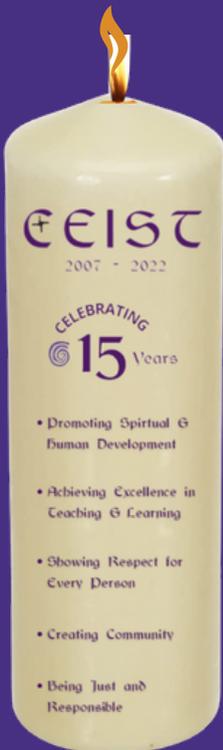
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# FOREWORD

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

We don't need special words or religious phrases because we can pray simply and directly. This little book is a collection of prayers that we hope will be useful at various times during the school year. It will help to remind us that God is present and sharing our journey each step of the way, each day.

Remember no issue is too big or too small to pray about and as scripture says "*Ask and it will be given to you*".

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus.*

***Philippians 4:6–7***

*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened....*

***Matthew 7:7-8***

*Again, I tell you truly that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven.*

***Matthew 18:19***



## The Calling

God of Love,  
We thank You for the gift entrusted to us by our Founding Congregations.  
We heed Your calling

To Serve

To Be Just

To Be Responsible

To seek Excellence in all we do

To be Curious, Compassionate, Consoling, Courageous

To build Community in an atmosphere of Care, Love and Joy

To treasure the Spiritual

To honour and value the Person

To honour and value our World

To include all, celebrate all and embrace all

To model Respect.

All to give glory to You.

May our CEIST schools be places and spaces of Hope,  
of Kindness, of Welcome and Discovery  
as we give witness to Your unending love for us.

May our CEIST communities experience and exude  
Gratitude and Forgiveness in equal measure  
as we give witness to Your unending love for us.

May our Words give witness to Your unending love for us.  
May our Actions give witness to Your unending love for us.

May Christ be encountered in every Word, in every Action, in  
every School, by every Person - every day.

God of Peace – Hear our Prayer  
God of Wisdom – Hear our Prayer  
God of Grace – Hear our Prayer  
God of Love– Hear our Prayer

St. Vincent de Paul – Pray for us  
St. Louise de Marillac - Pray for us  
Fr. Jules Chevalier – Pray for us  
Venerable Catherine McAuley- Pray for us  
Venerable Nano Nagle- Pray for us  
Fr. Anthony Receveur - Pray for us

Include as  
appropriate



## Take Time to Pray

I got up early one morning  
And rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I didn't have time to pray.  
Problems just tumbled about me,  
And heavier came each task;  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.  
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty  
But the day toiled on gray and bleak  
I wondered why God didn't show me  
He said, "But you didn't seek",

I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys in the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,  
And paused before entering the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I had to take time to pray.

## September Prayer

We thank you Lord, for all that was good during the summer.  
For the love of 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



## October 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.



## November Prayer

Dear Lord,

During this month as we recall with love the memories of dear ones who have gone before us, we ask the living God to grace us with an awareness of how blessed we are:

Blessed with their wisdom that guided us  
Blessed with their courage that lifted us  
Blessed with their generosity that filled us  
Blessed with their love that formed us.

Gracious God may we in turn not be slow to share the blessings we have received and may we live confidently trusting that in you, life is changed and never taken away.

As we remember those who have gone before us this November  
Give us the comfort of knowing that they have gone only as far as you and you are very near.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen



## **December Prayer**

**Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may  
share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the  
shepherds, and worship of the wise men.**

**Close the door of hate and open the door of love all  
over the world. Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.**

**May the blessing of joy abide within us;  
May the blessing of peace rest upon us;  
May the blessing of love flow out through us and  
May all the blessings of the Lord be ours at  
Christmas and in the new year.**

**We ask this through Our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen**



## January Prayer

Loving Father,

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May our year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower down and bestow upon each of us a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

Amen.



## February Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for Spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days.

Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth.

Thank you that things are coming awake in the world.

As we leave behind a winter and step into spring bless us with a fresh heart, ready for nature to take its course.

May this season bring joy and light, peace and prosperity and a spirit in full bloom.

Amen.



# March Prayer

## St. Patrick's Breastplate Prayer

Christ with me  
Christ before me  
Christ behind me  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of  
everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of  
everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.



 HAPPY *St. Patrick's* DAY

# April Prayer

## Easter Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help us 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.  
Build our strength for each new beginning in Your  
name.

Amen



God,

Thank you for Spring and the hope of  
warmer, longer, brighter days. Thank you  
for the coming of growth and life and birth.  
Thank you that things are coming awake in  
the world.

We ask that what belongs in this season  
would become actual in our practical lives.  
We hope in you and in your promises. We  
hope in your gift of Spring.

Amen



# Summer Holidays/End of Term

## *A Summer Prayer*

Father, Creator of all,  
thank you for summer!  
Thank you for the warmth of the sun  
and the increased daylight.

Thank you for the beauty I see all around me  
and for the opportunity to be outside  
and enjoy your creation.

Thank you for the increased time I have  
to be with my friends and family,  
and for the more casual pace  
of the summer season.

Draw me closer to you this summer.

Teach me how I can pray  
no matter where I am  
or what I am doing.

Warm my soul  
with the awareness of your presence  
and light my path  
with your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy your creation,  
create in me a pure heart  
and a hunger and a thirst for you.

Amen.

**We thank you Lord, for this term. For our challenges, our successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt. Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends. Give us strength and courage to do what is right: to be witnesses of our faith. Amen**



# Prayers for Exam Students

God, stay close to me today  
Guide my study and light my way.  
Ease my nerves and comfort me  
With peace and love so tenderly.  
May I remember the things I need  
May I strive to give my best  
And do myself justice in each test.  
During the moments I feel stressed  
Help me remember the ways I am blessed.  
If there are times that I feel at sea  
Help me to trust that you are here with me.  
Amen.



Dear Lord, as I take this exam  
I thank you that my value is not  
based on my performance  
but on your great love for men.  
Come into my heart so that we can  
walk through this time together.  
Help me, not only with this test,  
but the many tests of life that are  
sure to come my way.  
As I take this exam, bring back  
to my mind everything I have studied  
and be gracious with what I have overlooked.  
Help me to remain focused and calm,  
confident in the facts and in my ability  
and firm in the knowledge that no matter  
what happens today, you are with me.  
Amen.

# Graduation Prayers

Gracious and caring God, our source of light and hope, we ask for your almighty hand to be upon these graduates as we send them forward. With their classes and grading now complete, may they strive toward excellence in all they do.  
Amen.



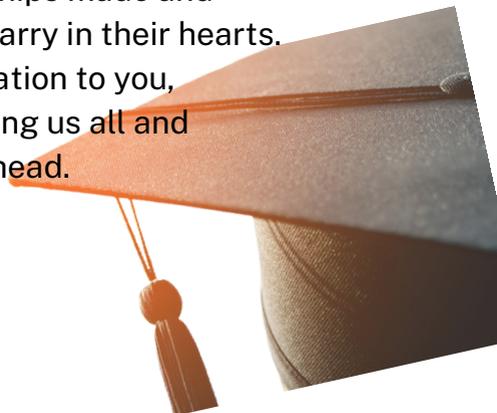
Almighty God,  
as we gather together for graduation,  
we thank you for the blessing of learning.  
Thank you for the privilege and opportunity

of studying and gaining new skills.  
May each graduate today feel proud and enjoy  
celebrating their success.

Lord, we pray that they can use their skills and  
knowledge to bless the world. Foster within them a  
continued passion for learning as they journey on.

Thank you for every aspect of their time with us;  
the knowledge gained, the friendships made and  
the dreams and visions that they carry in their hearts.  
Father, as we dedicate this celebration to you,  
we thank you for leading and guiding us all and  
as that you bless us in the years ahead.

Amen.



## Back to School Prayer

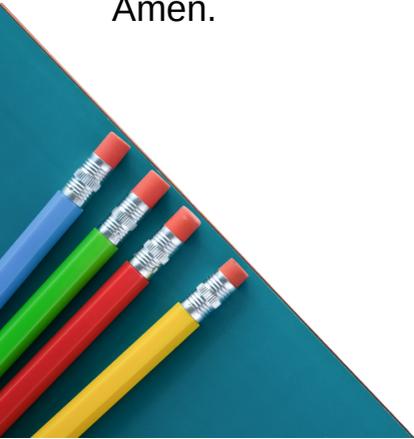
Gracious God,  
As the summer begins to fade,  
new possibilities lie on the horizon.

Bless all of those who are beginning or returning to their roles as teachers and chaplains, as well as those who lead and support them in their efforts.  
May this school year be a time of grace and potential as they teach, share and challenge others to grow in faith, knowledge and wisdom.

Bless students and parents as they begin a new school year. May their minds be open to learning and to the wonder of discovery and insight.

Be with us all as we embark on this new year.

Amen.





## Staff Meeting

Almighty God,

As we come together today, we ask for your guidance in our lives. May your goodness and love be present amongst us. Bless our gathering with unity, hope and vision. Bestow your grace and divine wisdom to all of us present here, so we can enjoy co-operation, camaraderie and teamwork.

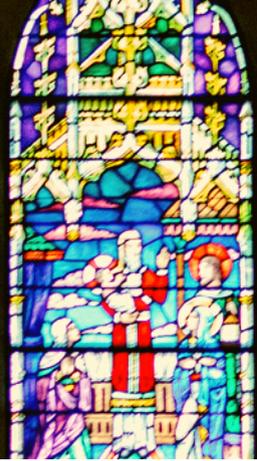
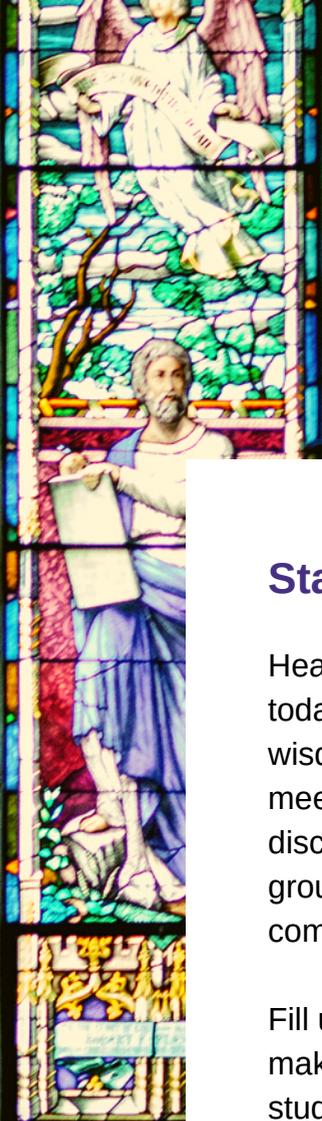
We ask that your blessing rest upon us and that you give us vision and enthusiasm for our work. Bless the efforts of our Staff, the bonds between us and the influence of our work in this school and beyond.

Lord, as we plan and share together now, may you guide us by your Holy Spirit and may we enjoy peace and the goodness of your love.

We ask this Christ our Lord.

Amen





## Staff Meeting

Heavenly Father, We come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting. Help us engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community.

Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we make decisions that might affect the students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of this school. 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.

## Prayer for Student Councils

God, the source of 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 community.

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

Amen.

## Prayer for Students

**Thank you God for our School and our friends.  
Help us to value the importance of the friendships we have made.**

**Give us strength to be honest in all that we do.  
Help us to show forgiveness when people make mistakes even when it is hard and we have been hurt.  
Help us to show respect and value that we are all special in your eyes.**

**Encourage us to persevere when things are hard; to make the right choices so that we can be the best that we can.**

**Amen**



# 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 them, "*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 greater commandment than these."*

This is the Word of the Lord.

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 we can do to make this school year a positive experience for ourselves and others.....Pause.

## Reflection

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I might thread safely into the unknown". He replied "Go out into the darkness, put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better 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

Response: ***Let us know that you are with us, every step of the way.***

1. Lord, guide us on our way and protect us as we journey together through this school year. R
2. Lord, keep our families and friends in your loving embrace and help us love one another. R
3. Lord, as we face the challenges during the year, guide us with your light. R

## 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 the face of difficulty and wise in our decisions.

We ask this through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen



## New Board of Management

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 be open to your wisdom and 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 the school. May it be a place happiness, laughter and learning. A place of creativity and kindness, dreams and memories, a place of study and tradition.

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

Amen.



# Prayers for Board of Management Meeting

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

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

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

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.

# Morning Prayers

Today I pray for you  
a heart free of sadness,  
a mind free of worries,  
a life full of gladness,  
a body free of illness  
and a day full of God's blessings  
Amen

---

Pick me up Lord, and hold  
me in your loving arms.  
Protect me from the  
pressures of the day and  
remove the heaviness  
from my heart.  
Inspire me with the knowledge  
that together, you and I can  
handle anything.  
Amen

---

Angel of God,  
my guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this day, be at my side,  
to light and guard, to rule and guide.  
Amen.



## Prayer for Peace

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle  
the strength to be forgiving,  
the patience to be understanding and  
the endurance to accept the consequences  
of holding to what we believe to be right.



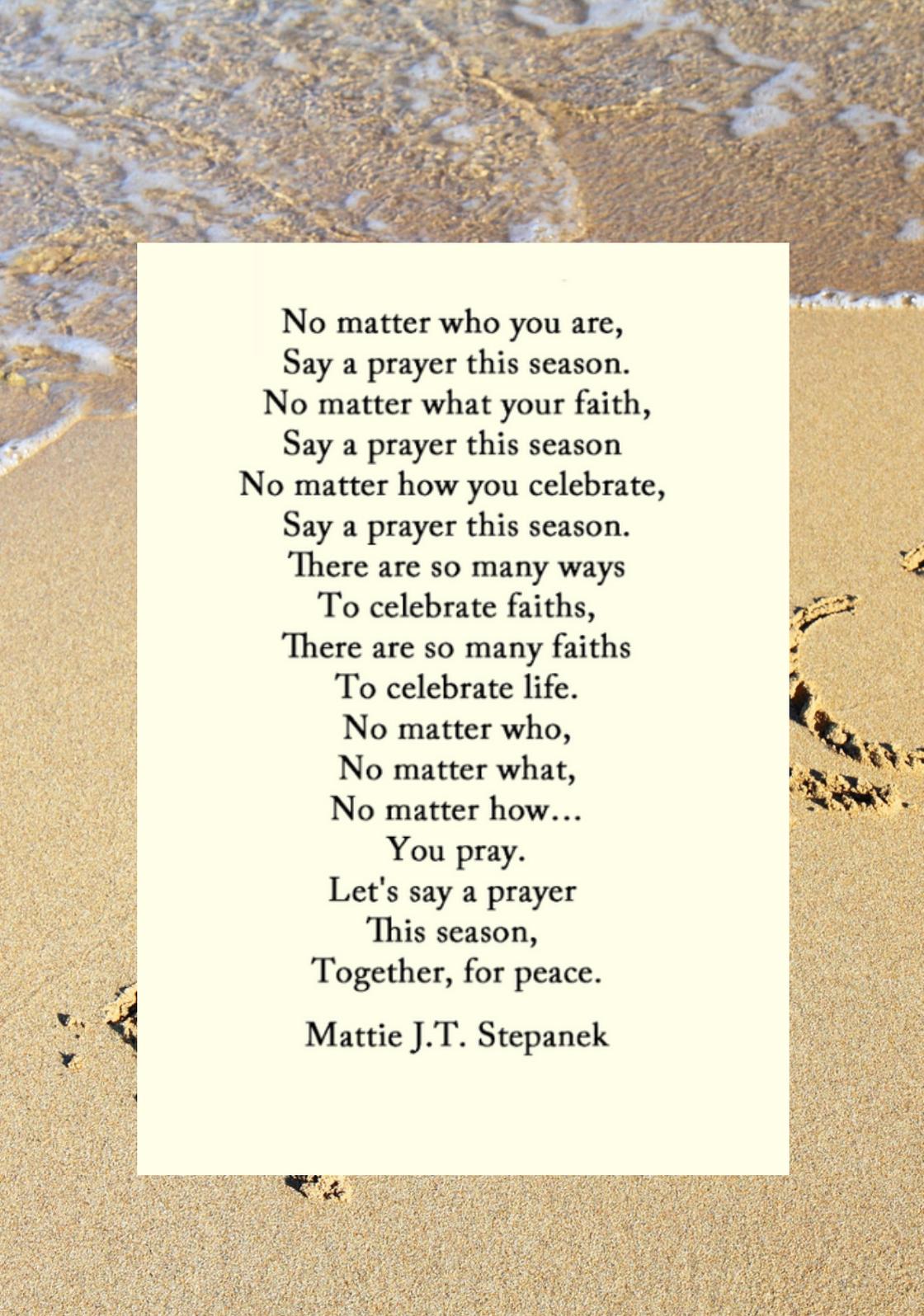
May we put our trust in the power of good  
to overcome evil and the power of love  
to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith  
to believe in a world free from violence,  
a new world where fear shall no longer lead  
men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make  
them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life, thoughts  
and energy to the task of making peace,  
praying always for the inspiration and the  
power to fulfill the destiny for which we and  
all men were created.

Amen





No matter who you are,  
Say a prayer this season.  
No matter what your faith,  
Say a prayer this season  
No matter how you celebrate,  
Say a prayer this season.  
There are so many ways  
To celebrate faiths,  
There are so many faiths  
To celebrate life.  
No matter who,  
No matter what,  
No matter how...  
You pray.  
Let's say a prayer  
This season,  
Together, for peace.

Mattie J.T. Stepanek

# **Sports Prayers**

**Father in Heaven,  
We ask Your blessing on the game we are about to play.  
Give each one of us the courage to play the game in a  
manner, which by our words  
and our actions, is pleasing to You.  
Let us enter into the competition in a spirit of  
sportsmanship  
And with respect for members of the opposing team.  
We ask you Father, to bless each one of us  
And especially the coaches, officials and players.  
Keep us under the protection of Your Son, Jesus Christ  
Amen**

**Heavenly Father,  
We thank you for this day, for these two teams,  
For the chance to study,  
To understand the world around us a little better,  
For the health to be here,  
For the thrill of a sporting event,  
And for individuals leaning to play as a team.  
Grant that we not take days like this for granted.  
Give us the grace to play our best, to be a good sport,  
Win or lose, and to honor You with our efforts.  
Amen**

# **A message for the Bereaved Grief**

**You never really get over the loss of your loved ones.**

**They live forever in your broken heart. Grief is something that walks beside you every day and night.**

**Grief comes in waves - when you are driving alone in your car, while you are doing the dishes, while you are getting ready for work - all of a sudden it hits you - your breath catches, tears flow and the sadness can be so great that it is physically painful. You can feel alone.**

**Grief causes a wound, sometimes a very deep wound; our hearts are not just wounded; they are broken. Like all wounds it hurts. But this is a wound we need not be ashamed of; in fact, it is a wound we should be proud of because it is caused by love. Where there is love there is also grief and pain. Those who never loved will never experience grief. They are the most deprived people of all. They have missed out on what life is all about.**

**Grief doesn't end because love doesn't end and the relationship doesn't end.**

**Grief is not a sign of weaknesses, nor a lack of faith.**

**When all is said and done it is the price of love. Where there is deep grief, there is deep love.**

# **A message for the Bereaved Grief**

**Grief is one of the strongest emotions we experience and it is healthy to express it and not hide it. What you are feeling is in fact good, strange as it may seem.**

**Take all the time you need. Learn to live with it. It can be exhausting. Face it, work through it, it is okay to be hurting.**

**Don't try to be strong and put up a brave front.**

**Express it.**

**Cry and cry and cry; talk, talk, talk.**

**Grief heals; tears strengthen.**

**Grief is painful, very painful.**

**Be proud of your grief.**

**Grief is Love.**



# CEIST Charter Values

- Promoting Spiritual & Human Development
- Achieving Quality in Teaching & Learning
- Showing Respect for Every Person
- Creating Community
- Being Just and Responsible



## Vision

A compassionate and just society inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

## Mission

To provide a holistic education in the Catholic tradition.



**CEIST**

Catholic Education  
An Irish Schools Trust



Promoting Spiritual and Human Development  
Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning  
Showing Respect for Every Person  
Creating Community  
Being Just and Responsible





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