



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís  
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

### Opening Reflection

We gather together to honour and give thanks for the life of Blessed Edmund Rice. Today, his feast day, is a time to celebrate his unselfish work for others.

Edmund Rice had a great love for all of creation. Today we pray for our planet and for communities across the world as we unite to live in harmony with all of creation.

Blessed Edmund faced personal pain during his own life and showed resilience and great faith in God. He lived through the challenging times of revolution, the Napoleonic war and famine. Today we pray for all those in Ukraine, Russia and across the world who are suffering because of war or violence. Guímid ar son na síochána san Úcráin, sa Rúis agus ar fud an domhain.

Edmund welcomed people from many countries into the port city of Waterford. He extended the hand of friendship and helped people find work so they could start a new life. Today we offer sanctuary in our schools and across Ireland and welcome those displaced by war and seeking refuge.

We celebrate his Life, Love, Spirituality and Charism. We give thanks for his vision and mission, the raising up of the poor and the oppressed to be pillars of Christ's presence in our world.

### Option

A student, parent or educator can be invited to  
reflect on the values of the Charter  
or  
reflect on the life of Edmund Rice.



clear and precious and beautiful.

### **Litany of Praise from the Canticle of St Francis**

Praise to you, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom you give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness to you, Most High.

*Praise to you my Lord.*

Praise to you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them

*Praise to you my Lord.*

Praise to you, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.

*Praise to you my Lord.*

Praise to you, my Lord, through Sister Water, who is very useful and precious and pure.

*Praise to you my Lord.*

Praise to you, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night. He is beautiful and robust and strong.

*Praise to you my Lord.*

*Reflect for a few moments as to what you want to praise God for in your life.*





**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit. Alleluia.

**Gospel Reading:** [Mark 4:30–32](#)

Jesus said, ‘With what can we compare the Kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?’

It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground is the smallest of all the seeds of the earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

## Theme for the Year

**Edmund Rice Schools – Living in harmony with all of creation**

### **PRAYER FOR THE EARTH**

May we love the earth  
and cherish her beauty.  
May we love the rivers  
and obey their ancient purity.  
May we love the skies  
and honour their infinity  
all for one another.  
AMEN.



### **A Prayer for our Earth By Pope Francis**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Pope Francis published this prayer in his *Laudato Si'* encyclical, and is meant for sharing with all who believe in a God who is the all-powerful Creator.



## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

Brothers and sisters, we are gathered together to celebrate the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us ask God to open for the entire world this fountain of life and blessings.

For all who follow across the world in the footsteps of Blessed Edmund Rice: the Christian Brothers, our teachers and students and all members of the Edmund Rice Network, that they may respond with the same courage and generosity to the call of Christ to the marginalized and outcast of our own day. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For each of us, in our school and local community, that the life of Blessed Edmund may encourage and inspire us to love one another as Christ taught us. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the students in our schools, that the education they receive in the Edmund Rice tradition may equip them with wisdom and leadership so that they may go on to make a difference in our world of tomorrow. We pray to the Lord...Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who suffered illness especially during the Covid pandemic, that they may find healing through the love and care of others and may the compassion they awaken be a source of renewal in our world. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

Guímid ar son na síochána san Úcráin, sa Rúis agus ar fud an domhain. For all who suffer oppression and injustice especially those suffering because of the war in Ukraine that they may know hope through the witness and courage of others. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have responded to the call for help during the Covid pandemic and are now responding to the needs of refugees to our country. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed, especially for members of our family, relatives and friends, who have been called home to the Lord, that they may be rewarded in the glory of His eternal Kingdom. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become instruments of a new creation, founded on the covenant of your love.... Lord, hear our prayer.

God our Creator, hear the prayers of your people. Grant us what we ask of you in faith. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

