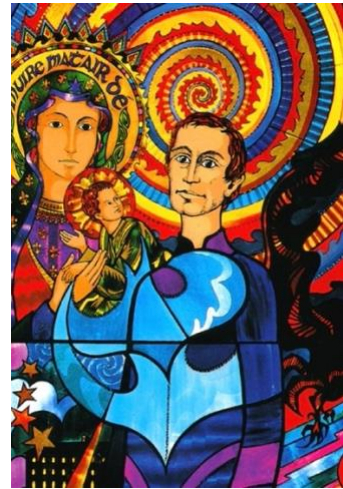




Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís Edmund Rice Schools Trust



On the 5th of May, we celebrate the Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Ritual Process

1. **Introduction to Ritual**

Theme: Looking out of my window

In Waterford, Edmund's attention was drawn to the poor children in front of him. He was moved and he acted. How often do we look out of our own 'windows on the world' and do not see because we are too wrapped up in our own lives?

Edmund looked after those on the margins. Help us to reach out to those who need our care.

Edmund welcomed people from many countries into the port city of Waterford. He built schools and helped people find work so they could start a new life. Today we welcome and help new families coming to Ireland.

May God bless us with listening hearts, open minds, and loving spirits.

2. **Lighting of Candle:**

This candle can be retained in the school on the window sill as a symbol of Welcome and Hope.

3. **Scripture**

Gospel Acclamation: *John 14:23*

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

A Gospel Reading: *John 15 :9–13*

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

4 Reflection Time:

- o What is sitting with me from this reading?
- o What insight does it bring in this time

5 A narrative from Edmund's life

Edmund encountered personal suffering through the death of his beloved wife. In this tragedy he experienced pain and sadness. The comfortable world he had once known was now shaken. He was left feeling alone and vulnerable.

Edmund searched for new meaning. Prayerful reflection supported him in this time. But above all, it was his baby daughter, growing and developing, that awakened him to new possibilities for expressing love, tenderness and care.

Perhaps, it was this heartbreak that opened his eyes and heart to see beauty and possibility in the faces of those who were so often forgotten and ignored by the community around him.

But like most of us, Edmund needed a purposeful nudge to get him to take that final step into action.

When sharing his thoughts about leaving Waterford to join a Monastery, a valued woman friend led him to the window, threw back the curtains and, pointing to the streets of poor young boys below, declared "Can you see, Mr Rice – there is your Monastery in the streets".

From that moment, Edmund's view from his window, motivated his work to bring hope to the lives of those young boys.

6 Common Prayer and Blessing -On this special day of celebrating the vision and work of Edmund Rice, we pray

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord, Help us to look out our window and see those most in need in our community. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For everyone across the world who follows in the footsteps of Blessed Edmund Rice that they may carry on the good work. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

For those seeking shelter in our country. **Guide us to pay attention to the personal story of each individual.** 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 pupils 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 our families, relatives and friends, including those who have gone to heaven. We pray to the Lord ... Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and care for it. Lord, hear our prayer.
God our Creator, hear the prayers of your people. We pray this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

7. Invocation

Blessed Edmund

All: Pray for us

Live Jesus in our Hearts

All: Forever

8. Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer

O God, we thank you for the life of Blessed Edmund Rice. He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice. May we follow his example of faith and generosity. Grant us the courage and compassion of Blessed Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.