



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís  
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

### Opening Reflection

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, we celebrate the  
Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Edmund had a great love for all of  
creation so today we pray for our  
planet.

Edmund lived through the Napoleonic  
war, revolutions and famine. Today we  
pray for all those in Ukraine, Russia and  
across the world who are suffering  
because of war.

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 built schools and helped people find  
work so they could start a new life.  
Today we welcome and help new  
families coming to Ireland.

### 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.



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

Praise to you, my Lord, with all your  
creatures, especially Brother Sun, who is the  
day and gives us light.

*Praise to you my Lord.*

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

*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 helping 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**

For everyone across the world who follows in the footsteps of Blessed Edmund Rice: the Christian Brothers, our teachers and students and all members of the Edmund Rice Family that they may carry on the good work. 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 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.

For all those who helped 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 our families, relatives and friends, including those who have gone to heaven. 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.



### 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 who are poor and treated unfairly. May we follow his example of faith and kindness. Grant us the courage and care of Blessed Edmund as we seek to live our lives showing love and helping others. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



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