



Ollscoil Chathair
Bhaile Atha Cliath
Dublin City University



Praying Together

Prayers for Primary School Assemblies



Church of Ireland Centre DCU

Editor: Jacqui Wilkinson



Prayer Topics

Introduction	02
The start of the school day	03
The start of the school year	04
Our new class/ our new junior infants	06
School prayers	07
Events in the school community	11
Opening a new school building	
Staff member getting married	
Staff member beginning maternity/ adoptive leave	12
Staff member beginning paternity/ adoptive leave	
Retirement of teacher/ principal	13
Welcome of new principal/ new teacher	
Board of Management meeting	14
Staff meeting	
Student council	
Green schools	15
School inspection	
A teacher's prayer	
Sports day	16
The end of the school term/ year	
6 th class graduation	19
Our parish church/ diocese / pupils being confirmed	21
The world around us/ seasons of the year/ creation	22
Caring for our world	26
People in need in our community and in the world	29
For our country	31
Prayers for people who are sick	32
Times of bereavement/ tragedy affecting the school community	34
When a pet dies	35
General prayers (help, thanks, sorry)	36
Prayer based on the prayer of St Francis of Assisi	41
Prayer based on the Lord's Prayer	42
Family prayers (mothers, fathers, grandparents)	43
Festivals in the Church year	46
Closing prayers	50
Traditional prayers	51
	54
Index of Schools	

Introduction

In Spring 2019 the call went out to all Church of Ireland primary schools asking teachers and pupils to write new prayers for school assemblies.

This book is a selection of the many prayers received over the following months.

The prayers cover many events in the school and church year and it is hoped that those involved in leading assembly will find them a useful addition and inspiration for worship. The collection includes prayers which may only be used occasionally, for example when a teacher retires or when there is a school inspection. Others may become regular features of assemblies marking the seasonal events of the school year. There are also prayers when an urgent response is required, for example in times of sickness or sadness, or if there is a national or local tragedy.

These prayers may also be useful in the classroom as starting points for children to compose their own prayers in RE or for assemblies.

Not all the prayers that were submitted could be included in this published collection but many more are in an online collection which may grow over the months and years ahead so do feel free to continue to send prayers written by your pupils or by staff members.

The online collection is available at:

<https://www.dcu.ie/church-of-ireland-centre/supporting-schools.shtml>

Many thanks to the teachers and pupils who have brought this project to fruition, without your inspiring prayers there would be no book. Thanks also to Dr Bridget Nichols (Church of Ireland Theological Institute) who was theological advisor for the project, and to Lydia Monds and the Children's Ministry Network for their support for the project.



Jacqui Wilkinson, Church of Ireland Centre, DCU. September 2019.

E: jacqueline.wilkinson@dcu.ie

The start of the school day

Dear God, please bless all the children in our school. Help them to learn in a caring and happy environment.

Please bless the teachers and staff in our school. May they continue to inspire and guide our students.

Please bless the parents, guardians and families connected with our school. We thank you for their continued enthusiasm and support.

Please bless the members of our Board of Management. We ask for your guidance, inspiration and direction in the decisions they make for our school.

Please bless our school bus drivers who are entrusted with the safety and care of our children.

Thank you for looking after our school and for loving everyone here. Amen.

Ms Olwen Mackey (Principal), The Model School, Kilkenny.

Dear God, thank you for being with us as we start this new day.

Help us start the day with a fresh beginning.

We ask you to help us to work honestly, to play fairly and to support each other.

Help us to appreciate the talents you have given us and to use them for the good of others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Staff of Templebreedy N.S. Crosshaven.

Dear God, we are so grateful for this new day in school.

We hope to see lots of friendly faces.

Be by our sides through this day and every day.

As each school day passes, we know we can trust in you. Amen.

2nd Class, St Nicholas N.S. Dundalk.

Lord, as we enter into a new day, may you bless us with your presence. May we feel your guidance and love. May you guide us to make good choices and encourage us to be the best versions of ourselves. Let us be thankful for all of the people involved in our education and for those who support us every day. Amen.

Ms Emma Furney, Gorey Central School.

Father God, we welcome this new day. We thank you for keeping us safe as we travelled to school.

God, we pray that you will help us to be kind and friendly to everyone we meet in school today, to smile at someone who seems sad, or to help someone that might need help.

Show us God, how we can treat people as we'd like to be treated ourselves and to love everyone in our school community as we love ourselves.

Thank you God. Amen.

Ms Beverley Maxwell, Rathfarnham Parish N.S.

The start of the school year

Father, at the start of another year we thank you for our school.

We ask that you bless the children and the teachers, and everyone who helps our school to be the best that it can be.

Be with us, we pray, in the year ahead.

Guide us and watch over us

so that in everything that we do

we will show your love to one another,

bring your light to the world

and grow, day by day, into the knowledge that you give to us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross.

(This prayer is read at the annual service for primary schools in Cork, Cloyne and Ross)

Dear God, at the beginning of the new school year we pray that you will help us to make the best of this new start and go forward with confidence and enthusiasm.

Fill our school with

warm welcomes,

happy hearts,

love of learning,

contented classrooms,

friendship and fun.

Help us to work hard together to make our school a place of love, happiness and respect. Amen.

Ms Janet Nuzum (Principal) Carysfort N.S., Arklow.

Dear God, we come before you today to ask for your blessing as we start our day/week/term/year together. Direct and guide us as we try to do our best, learn from our mistakes and encourage others along the way. Help us to always trust in you, through good times and bad, and to be forever grateful for your unfailing love. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Staff of Abbeystrewry N.S., Skibbereen.

Dear Lord, as we begin a new school year, help us to remember that wherever we are going or whatever happens, you are there with us.

Let's be grateful for healthy bodies and minds to enjoy the gift of each new day. We know there will be all sorts of days; happy, sad, challenging, exciting, but you are beside us all the time.

During this year, help us to work as a team in school, to look after each other, to be there for our friends and to do the very best we can whatever each day brings. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Ms Janet Morgan (Principal), Hewetsons N.S., Clane.



Our new class

Bless us O Lord in our new class this year,
help us to learn without any fear.
Keep us focussed, our minds sharp and true,
we pray that you'll bless us in all that we do.
Be with us dear Lord at the start of each day,
grant us good friendships to light up our way.
Bless our teachers and the knowledge they impart,
help us to hold you close in our hearts. Amen.

Junior Room pupils. St Brendan's N.S. Bantry.

New pupils in our school

Dear God, we ask you to bless our new Junior Infant class as they settle into our school. We pray for **(you may like to name the individual children)**.....
Help them to find their way around our school buildings.
Keep them safe as they play at break time.
May they have fun as they play, learn and make new friends.
May we each get to know their names and have smiles for them when we meet them.
We pray for Mr/Ms their teacher and for Mr/ Ms**(name all the other teachers/ support staff who work in their classroom)**
As the weeks go by, may they really feel at home and happy in our school. Amen.

Jacqui Wilkinson Church of Ireland Centre, DCU.



A diocesan school prayer

Dear Lord, thank you that we live in a country where we can all have a good education.

We are grateful for our principals, our teachers, our support teachers, our school secretaries and our cleaners. We are thankful for schools that are warm, safe spaces for us to learn.

We are very aware of places in the world where there is no free education, or no education at all. We think of countries where girls do not have the same opportunity as boys to learn. We know that in Ireland we are very fortunate to have homes and schools where we are taught and looked after.

Help us to treat each other and our teachers with respect and to look after the school where we learn. Help us to take care of our environment and to be careful with our litter and our lunches so that the place is kept clean and tidy and we don't leave behind too much plastic. May we notice the boy or girl who is unhappy or who does not have friends and may we be the boy or girl who makes sure that that person feels less lonely.

[We thank you God for this diocese of and all the Church of Ireland schools we represent at this diocesan service today]. We thank you, Lord, for everything that our schools mean to us, and for the years we are there that will help us to be learning, growing teenagers and adults. May each of us make a difference in the world in which we live and work,

All that we are and do is for your glory, our Friend and Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Most Revd Patricia Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare.



General School Prayers

A Thiarna Dhílis,
Beannaigh ár scoil.
Beannaigh na páistí a fhoghlaimíonn intí.
Beannaigh na múinteoirí agus gach duine a oibríonn intí.
Guímid go mbeadh ár scoil ina áit áthasach, áit cineálta agus áit speisialta.
Coimeád sinn slán sabháilte gach lá.
Áiméan.

Mrs Joyce Purdue (Principal), Rathfarnham Parish N.S.

We thank you Lord
For the food we eat.
We thank you Lord
For our tables and seats.

We thank you Lord
For the sun in the sky.
We thank you Lord
For the beds where we lie.

We thank you Lord
For our beautiful school.
We thank you Lord
For the weather, warm and cool.

We thank you Lord
For the friends we greet.
We thank you Lord
For the teachers we meet.

We thank you Lord
For all our families.
We thank you Lord
For the kindness we see. Amen.

Powerscourt N.S.

Dear God, thank you for all the opportunities we have in our school.
Thank you for our teachers, our helpers and all the equipment we have.
Thank you that we can ask questions.
Thank you that it is ok for us to express our opinions.
Thank you that we are listened to.
Thank you that we can get help when we struggle.

We pray for children who do not get an education,
who are not listened to,
who do not have the opportunities we do the things we do,
and who do not get help when they struggle.
Let us use our education to make life better for others.
Let us always care about those with less than we have
and to help where we can. Amen.

5th class St Michael's N.S., Blackrock, Cork.

Thank you God, for our wonderful school and the scenery around it that we can
walk in every day and be proud of.
Thank you for the windows in our school so that we can look out at the beautiful
world.
Thank you for the teachers and staff who teach and help us.
Thank you for the activities that our school provides so that we can stay active.
Thank you God, for our lovely friends and help us to be kind to them every day.
Thank you for the friendships that have developed.
Thank you for the joy in our school.
We pray for the children who are not as lucky as we are and who don't have a
school. We thank you for everything we have. Amen.

Ms Ruth Wallace and the pupils from 1st-6th classes Abbeyleix South N.S.

Heavenly Father, we pray that we all enjoy our time in this school and are happy
in our work.
We also pray that teachers enjoy their days teaching in this school,
and we pray that everyone in our school enjoys the school outings we are so
lucky to be able to go on.
Bless all of us inNational School family through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The school prayer of Maryborough N.S., Portlaoise.

Thank you God for blessing us with friends that are caring, generous, helpful, friendly and kind. Help us to be kind to our friends. We pray that you will keep them safe and healthy.

We pray for our teachers. Thank you God for all of our teachers who help us throughout our education from Junior Infants to college. We thank them for their time and all of the lovely things they teach us. Amen.

Ms Avril Cornwall and 2nd class St Patrick's N.S., Newbridge.

Dear God, thank you for giving us such wonderful friends who we will treasure forever. Thank you for giving us someone to go to when we are sad and someone to celebrate with when we are happy.

Help us to remain loyal to our friends and to never let them down. Give us the courage and strength to make up when we disagree. Help us to always be ready to share everything we have with our friends.

We remember those who don't have any true friends to share things with. Amen.

Pupil, Rathkeale No 2 N.S., Co. Limerick.

Dear Lord, please bless our school secretaries and caretakers
Keep them safe and guide them in their work as they
enhance the daily life of our schools. Amen.

Ms Carol O'Byrne, Secretary, The Model School Kilkenny.

Heavenly Father, thank you for our school.
Please help us to meet every task with optimism and cheerfulness.
Help us to be kind to and mindful of other people.
Remind us to be helpful to each other.
Give us courage to stand up for ourselves and for others.
Grant us the grace and understanding to be able to forgive.
Amen.

Senior Room Pupils Shillelagh N.S. Wicklow.

Lord, bless us at school today,
guide us and keep us in your own way.
Bless the students, and teachers too,
and help us to work well, according to you.
In Jesus holy name we ask,
that you will help us with all our tasks.
And not just now, but every single day,
guide us and keep us in your grace we pray.
In Jesus name, Amen.

Pupil from The Glebe N.S., Wicklow.

God bless the people of our school,
In everything we do.
And may the love you show to us,
Be always shining through. Amen.

School Prayer of Carlow N.S.

Events in the school community

Opening a new school building

Dear Lord, thank you for our new.....

We thank you for our principal, Board of Management and all who were involved in the planning (and fundraising) for the building work.

We also thank you for the architects and the builders who worked hard to complete the

As we officially open the building today, help us to respect and care for it so that future pupils and teachers will enjoy it too.

We ask God's blessing on our new..... and we pray for the teachers and pupils who will work together here. Amen.

Jacqui Wilkinson.

Prayer for member of staff getting married

Lord Jesus, the Bible tells us that you were a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee and helped everyone to celebrate that wonderful day. Today in assembly we ask you to bless N..... who is going to be married to N..... We pray that their wedding day may be a very special day for them and their families and that their marriage may be full of love and joy and happiness. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jacqui Wilkinson.

Prayer for a teacher beginning maternity/ adoptive leave

Loving God, we thank you for the way you care for each of us. In assembly today we are praying especially for N.....because her baby will be born very soon (her baby/ child will be with her very soon). We ask you to bless her and her family over the coming days and when her baby (child) is home, we pray for health, sleep and lots of smiles. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jacqui Wilkinson.

Prayer for a teacher beginning paternity/ adoptive leave

Loving Father, we thank you for the way you care for each of us. In assembly today we are praying especially for N..... because he is about to be a dad to a new baby (child). We ask you to bless him and his family over the coming days and when the baby (child) is born, we pray for health, sleep and lots of smiles. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jacqui Wilkinson.

Prayer for a teacher about to retire

Dear God, we thank you for the many years of service given so freely by your servant to this school.

We thank you for the guidance given to her/him as he/she committed his/her services to this school.

We thank you for the wisdom bestowed on him/her as he/ she undertook his/ her many duties with the care and nurture of children at the core, employing the many gifts and talents given him/her, which enhanced the life of the school community.

We thank you for his/her faithfulness to you, and the example he/she set, as he/ she lived by the teachings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We ask that you continue to guide and govern his/ her daily life and we commend him/her to your care in his/ her retirement and the fresh opportunities that are ahead for him/her.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mrs Dorothy Verplancke, Cork.

Prayer for a new principal

We pray today for our new principal,

We pray that he/ she will feel welcome and supported in our school.

We pray that God will guide him/her as he/she leads our school.

Help him/her O Lord to lead us in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ms Yvonne Payne, (Principal) Monasteroris N.S., Edenderry.

Prayer for a newly appointed teacher

Dear God, we thank you for your guidance in this new appointment to our school, and we ask that you will bless as he/ she seeks to serve you through his/ her chosen profession.

We pray that you will guide his/ her many decisions that they may be for the good of those whom he/ she will serve, and we pray that you will bless him/her with wisdom and courage, which will ensure outcomes which will change for the better what can be changed.

We pray that he/ she will be faithful to you and that he/ she will encourage those in his/ her care to serve you with steadfastness and truth, not forgetting that all that we are comes from you.

This we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

Mrs Dorothy Verplancke, Cork.

Prayers for a Board of Management meeting

Heavenly Father, as we gather today at this meeting of our school's Board of Management we ask that you will be in our midst. Help us to make decisions that will be pleasing and bring glory to you. Help us to be able to discuss the matters at hand in a reasonable way, always keeping the safety, happiness and wellbeing of all our pupils foremost in our minds.

God, let this meeting be productive so that our school can bear fruit through the education and nurturing of our children. In all we consider, discuss and decide, help us to keep you at the centre of our thoughts as we do the work set before us. Amen.

Ms Dawn Hutchinson (Principal) Drumacrutin N.S., Monaghan.

Heavenly Father, whose wisdom is everlasting, we pray for the Board of Management of this school. Guide it by your Holy Spirit so that all its discussions and decisions may glorify you, further your kingdom, and make your love known. We ask this for the sake of your only Son, Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Staff of Cobh Mixed N.S.

Prayer for a staff meeting

Heavenly Father, as we come to school as a staff, help us always to think about what we can do for others and not to be selfish. Grant that we will always put those around us first. Help us to always seek to find the opportunity to serve you and others throughout our school day. Fill our hearts with your peace so that we will be patient, gentle, humble and loving to everyone around us, and above all we thank you for the blessings of life, health, strength, grace, forgiveness and joy.

Amen.

Staff of St. Michael's N.S. Ballina.

Prayer for the Student Council

Dear Lord, help the student council to make this school a better and happier place for everyone. Help them to make good decisions for our school.

Help them to..... (make this school a clean and tidy place so that all people in our school will treat the school with respect....or you could insert a current issue)

Amen.

Miss Pierce and 3rd class pupils, St Andrew's N.S., Lucan.

Green Schools

Dear Lord, we, the Green Schools committee, are very aware about the importance of minding our planet and our environment.

We know that the world we live in is a gift from you and that we are responsible for keeping it safe.

Through the Green Schools programme, help us to encourage all pupils to take very good care of our precious planet. Amen.

Ms Joyce and 4th class, St Luke's N.S., Douglas.

A teacher's prayer

Dear God, thank you for guiding and protecting me today.

Please give me wisdom for tomorrow for all the many situations I know will come my way - be it concerns from pupils, parents, staff or others.

Help me to listen even though I'm weary.

Help me to be kind even if others aren't.

Help me to laugh and smile and find the good.

When all my strength has gone and I feel overcome, remind me of your comfort and strength, lift up my head and help me cast my cares upon you. I pray this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ms Sylvia Speer, Killygordan N.S.

Prayer for a school inspection

Dear Lord, we thank you for our school and for all it means to those of us who work and learn here. As we prepare for this inspection please keep us calm and help us to work as a team to get things ready.

We pray that those who inspect our school will truly recognise what is going really well; and where guidance is needed that they will give it with honesty, wisdom and understanding.

Help us to be aware of your presence with us through stressful days like these and to support each other with kind words and actions.

At the end of this inspection help us to discern where we can move forward together with confidence and peace, remembering that our school is centred on the love of God and of each other.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jacqui Wilkinson.

Prayer for sports day

Dear God, thank you for the opportunity to partake in Sports Day and all the opportunities you give to us during the summer term.

Help us to remember that winning is wonderful but taking part is what is most important. If we do not win, we can always try to improve ourselves and strive to be better for both you and ourselves as we go on our journey through life. Amen.

Ms Jane Willis, Bandonbridge N.S.

Dear God, thank you for our gifts, skills and abilities.
Help us to enjoy sports day and to accept winning and losing.
We promise to respect our team-mates and rivals.
Help us to enjoy and achieve our goals today. Amen.

Ms Elaine Guinane and 6th class St Luke's N.S. Douglas.

Dear God, thank you for our healthy bodies and the amazing things we can do.
Thank you for the joy of skipping, running, jumping and playing.
Help us to take care of our bodies by staying active, eating and sleeping well.
Help us to work as a team and to do the best we can.
If we win, help us not to boast, If we lose, help us not to sulk.
Help us to work together to make our school a healthy place of fun, friendship and learning. Amen.

Ms Janet Nuzum (Principal) Carysfort N.S., Arklow.

Prayers at the end of the school term/ year

Dear Father God, we thank you for this school term that is ending.
Thank you for all the great things that have happened: for new things learned, for fun with friends, for the memories we have made.
Thank you for helping us through the difficult times: the bad days, the disappointments, the sad times.
Sorry for when we have said or done the wrong thing and let down our teachers and our friends.
Help us to enjoy our holidays and to come back refreshed for another new term.
We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ms Rebecca Adamson, Taney N.S.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all your goodness to us and for bringing us safely to the end of another school year. We thank you for all the things we have learned and for all the fun we have enjoyed. Thank you for our friends and for helping us to love one another as you have loved us.

We thank you for sixth class: for _____(name each child)_____. Bless them as they move to their new schools. May they settle in quickly, make new friends and know that you are always with them.

We also pray for the children who will join us in September. Help us to make them feel welcome and to care for them. We pray that they will be very happy in our school. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Killeshandra N.S., Cavan.

Friday Prayer (Sing to the tune of The Grand Old Duke of York)

Oh we're going home from school,
Thank God we've had this time,
We're grateful as we march in line,
Oh isn't it just fine!

And when we work, we work!
And when we play, we play!
And several times in every day,
We do our best to pray!

Ballinlough N.S., Roscommon.

Dear God, we thank you for guiding us through a memorable school year. Keep us and our loved ones safe during the holidays. We thank our teachers and members of our school community for everything they have done this year. We gather together at the end of the year to give thanks for all we have achieved and we look to the next step in our school lives. Amen.

6th class 2018-2019 St Luke's N.S., Douglas.

Lord God, as we gather our thoughts after this school year and reflect on all that we have achieved and learned, we thank you.
Soon our classroom will be empty, soon our playground will be silent, but our memories will be full of the thoughts of time spent with our teacher and our friends, as we learned and played here together;
and our minds are alive with the knowledge and understanding we have gained during all our days here in school.
Our school year has been made rich by us learning from our books, from our teachers and from each other.
The summer is coming and the long holidays to spend with our family and friends;
to do all the things that will make new memories; new friends and new adventures.
God of all creation, God of all life,
God of all wisdom, God of all love,
We thank you. Amen.

Dr Ken Fennelly, Secretary, General Synod Board of Education.



Thank you God for caring for us:

for sharing your world and your love with us,
for our family and friends,
for the staff in our school,
for the encouragement we receive,
and for keeping our school community safe.

We are grateful for education, fun and learning throughout this year,

for the new things we have learned,
for the fun and activities we've enjoyed,
for the fun we've had in school, all of the special days, the happy times, and
the laughter we've shared.

We will look back on all our happy memories and achievements, the good times
with our friends, and the jokes we've shared.

We pray that our school community will enjoy a safe summer holiday.

We look forward to reuniting with our friends and the prospect of a fantastic
new school year.

We ask for God's blessing on us all. Amen.

Pupils of St Fin Barre's N.S., Cork.

Prayers by and for 6th class leavers

Dear God, as we leave school, we pray that you will help us to be kind and
respectful to each other.

Give us the ability to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Show us how to be loyal and trustworthy friends.

Help us to be accepting and non-judgmental.

Guide us to recognise who people are on the inside as the most important thing.

Help us to make everybody feel included and welcome.

Watch over us as we stand up for and help the people around us.

Above all else, guide us in becoming kind, respectful, caring and loving in all we
do. Amen.

6th Class 2018-19, Whitechurch N.S.

Dear Lord we ask for your blessing upon all the pupils who will leave our school and transition to secondary school.

We pray that the education they have received and the values that they have learned in this place will make this transition an enjoyable one.

We remember all our past pupils and pray that they are being enabled to achieve their full potential. Amen.

Staff from The Deanery School, Cashel.

God, as our pupils in 6th class complete their last days in primary school, we treasure the fond memories of their time in this school. We thank you for the friends they have made, the lessons they have learned and the times they have shared together. We also turn our thoughts to their hopes for the future. Beginning secondary school is an exciting step. We pray that you will be with them in all their new experiences. Help them to know that you are always with them as they face new challenges and guide them as they make important decisions.

Our prayer for 6th class is that they will strive to reach their potential, do their best in all things and be kind to each person they meet in life.

In your name we pray, Amen.

Ms Linda McMahan,(Principal), Tounagh N.S.,Riverstown.

A Blessing for Sixth class leavers

May you always remember the gifts and talents that you all possess.

May you always know to ask for help and guidance whenever you may need it. Never forget the friendships you have formed, the good times and laughter you've shared and the happy place that your school has been.

You are leaving with special memories of lessons learned and friendships made.

Your hearts and minds are prepared for the road ahead.

You are loved more than you can know.

You have brought such joy to us all in your time with us.

Think of us from time to time as we will be thinking of you.

You are moving on to the next step in an exciting new adventure.

May the Lord watch over you and keep you safe in Secondary School as he has here in our school. Amen.

Staff of St Fin Barre's N.S., Cork.

Our Parish

Our parish church

We thank you God for our parish church of

We think of all the generations of people who have worshipped there, many who also attended this school.

We pray for our rector as he/she visits our school (and leads our school assemblies). Guide him/her in the many tasks he/she has to do.

May the links between our church and our school be strong. Amen.

New rector

Heavenly Father we thank you that you have called to be our new rector and to live, work and worship among us. As we welcome her/him to our school today we ask your blessing on her/his ministry among us for the years ahead. We pray for her/him as she/he settles (with her/his family) into a new area with new challenges and opportunities and we pray that we will learn from her/him more about Jesus' love for us. Amen.

A prayer for those from our school who are going to be confirmed

God our Father, we thank you that you are with us in all the stages of our lives.

Today we pray for the pupils of this school who are preparing to be confirmed.

We pray for We pray that they will enjoy this special day in their lives.

As the bishop lays hands on each person, may they know that the Holy Spirit is especially with them, and that they may continue to grow in their faith for the rest of their lives. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop

Heavenly Father we pray for our patron Bishop We thank you for all he/she does for all schools in this diocese and especially for our school.

We pray for Bishop in all his/her work. Guide him/her by the Holy Spirit.

Give him/her wisdom and in all he/she does may he/she know your blessing.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The world around us

Our world in spring

S pringtime is beautiful
P retty flowers start to grow
R aindrops fall on everything
I give thanks to God for the Spring
N ests are being built in the trees
G rass is blowing in the breeze.
Thank you God for Spring Time and letting the sun come back out.
Thank you God for the colourful flowers and the new leaves that are growing on the trees.
Thank you God for Easter and our new baby chicks.
Thank you God for everything. Amen.

Mrs Jackson, Ms McLoughery J. /S.Infants, The Model School, Kilkenny.

Father in heaven we thank you for the birth of baby animals,
the rising sun up in the sky, the beautiful song of the birds when we play outside,
the daffodils that brighten up our day and for the fabulous blooming trees.
Amen.

Junior Room pupils, St. James' N.S., Durrus.

Dear Lord, as we move from winter to spring, we are excited for new beginnings.
Thank you for our family and friends. Thank you for the food that we eat and
water we drink. Thank you for our good health. Amen.

3rd and 4th Class – St. Mary's N.S. Templemore.



Our world in summer

God of creation;

For warm summer suns and no work to be done, we thank you Lord.

For the games we play and long sun-filled days, we thank you Lord.

For holidays in far places and sports day and races, we thank you Lord.

For picnics outside and long cycle rides, we thank you Lord.

For late mornings in bed and books to be read, we thank you Lord.

For rest from our school and ice-creams that are cool, we thank you Lord.

For summer days with our friends, we thank you Lord. Amen.

Our world in autumn

We praise you God at harvest time:

for the apples, pears and plums from the trees,

for the blackberries from the hedges,

for the corn, wheats, oats and barley from the fields,

for the potatoes and other vegetables from farms and gardens.

Thank you that we have plenty of food to eat this harvest time.

Thank you for the farmers who have worked tirelessly through days of sun and days of rain so that we have the fruits of the harvest to eat. Amen.

Thank you God for autumn:

as the summer sun fades, as the days get shorter,

as the breeze gets colder, as the swallows leave for warmer countries,

as the leaves turn from green to gold to brown, and as the trees stand empty to the sky.

As then winter comes closer, we thank you for the year of seasons and the promise of new life in spring. Amen.



Our world in winter

God of creation;

For warm homes at night, and Christmas tree lights, we thank you Lord.

For frost on the grass and fun times in class, we thank you Lord.

For trees stripped of leaves and holly filled wreaths, we thank you Lord.

For hot food on our table and Christmas crib stables, we thank you Lord.

For singing in choirs and bells ringing in spires, we thank you Lord.

For cold winds that blow, and fields filled with snow, we thank you Lord.

For winter days with our friends, we thank you Lord. Amen.

General prayers about creation

Dear Lord God, thank you for all the animals you have created for us to look after.

Thank you God for our farmers here in Ireland and in other countries and for all the work they do around the farm.

Thank you God for all the food we have to enjoy.

Thank you for pizza, chocolate, vegetables, pasta, apples, grapes, beef, sweets, chips, candy canes, fruit, chicken, lamb, brownies and all the other lovely things to eat.

Sow a seed of love in our hearts for our friends and those around us.

Help us all to remember that you love us with an unchanging and unending love. Amen.

Jl-2nd class Drumacrutin N.S., Monaghan.

We thank you God for the wonderful things you created:

for the animals, big and small,
for the oceans, deep and blue,
for the land, green and fertile,
for the sky and all the birds of the air,
for the sun that shines and cheers us up.
for the people that God made,

Help us look after this wonderful earth. Amen.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Class pupils, Wandesforde N.S. Castlecomer.

Dear Lord, thank you for the day and night
and joyful times in the daylight.
Thank you for the birds and bees
and for the plants and for the trees.
Thank you for the soft moonlight
and for the stars that shine through the night.
Thank you for the fish we see
swimming through the great blue sea.
Thank you for the big blue whale,
who keeps on swimming without fail. Amen.

Pupils of St. Michael's N.S. Ballina.

God's Creation

Look at the rabbit under the ground
it's so sweet and makes no sound.
Look at the cat in your house
it preys on the little white mouse.
Look at the mouse as soft as snow
it's so sweet, it's harmless you know.
Look at the bird flying through the air
it may be elegant but easy to scare.
Look at the trees, they're great too
they make oxygen just for you.
Look at the water in your tap
it's what's blue on your map.
God created all these things
from the mouse that squeals to the bird that sings.
So the next time you see one of them
remember it was created by God our creator and friend.

Pupil, Rathdowney N.S.

Caring for our world

Dear Lord thank you for the beauty of nature in our surroundings. We are grateful for our homes and families. Thank you for the trees in the environment which clean the air we breathe in by producing oxygen.

We ask you to help us to be good caretakers of our environment so that we can all live healthy lives. Amen.

2nd class, Delgany N.S.

Thank you God for biodiversity,
Thank you for the amazing variety of living things.
Help us to care for biodiversity.
Help us to care for the tiniest insects to the largest mammals.
Help us to care for all habitats -
the rain-forests and the oceans, the woodlands and the rivers,
the desert and the beach, the playground and the farm.
Help us to understand that we need biodiversity for food, medicine, air, clothes and fun.
Help us to appreciate and care for all that's good in biodiversity. Amen.

Ms Susan Notley, St Thomas' N.S., Rathowen.

Dear God, creator of the wind, the sky, the land and sea,
what a wonderful world you have given us.
Thank you for the rain, so we have water to drink.
Thank you for the land, so we have food to eat.
Thank you for the sun, so we have light and life on earth.
Help us to treat the world you have given us with care and respect.
May we, the children of this school, waste less and conserve more.
May we, the children of the world, live in harmony with each other and our precious planet. Amen.

Ms Janet Nuzum (Principal), Carysfort N.S., Arklow.

Father God, we thank you for creating a wonderful world, and providing for us everything that is necessary for life. You put us in charge as stewards, and placed your precious creation into our hands to care and nourish it.

As we look around at the destruction and exploitation of the earth's resources, we ask you to open our eyes to our present blindness and continuous greed.

Give us a mind and heart to change our selfishness, and to live as responsible stewards, protecting and respecting the wonderful gift of creation that you have placed in our hands. Amen.

Ms Florence Higgins, Kells Parochial N.S.

Thank you God for the beautiful trees,

the bees and sea,
the plants and animals,
and everything around us.

We will do our best to take care of them.

Thank you for food and trees and the animals,

the beautiful rivers and flowers,
and thank you for the fields.

We will do our best to take care of them.

Thank you for this day,

for the animals, flowers and the sea.
Thank you for the beautiful trees.

We will do our best to take care of them.

Thank you for our world and all of the trees, flowers and plants.

for the sunshine and the cats, the fish in the sea.

We will do our best to take care of them.

Thank you, God for food.

Thank you, God for family.

Thank you for flowers, animals, plants, the ocean and trees.

Thank you, God for everything. Amen.

Junior Pupils, All Saints' N.S., Carnew.

Dear Lord, the wonderful world you have given us is a great gift and we are truly blessed with all that we have from the Earth's resources.

We are worried about Climate Change and the impact this has on our environment. Help us to realise how delicate our planet is and to understand how easily it can be harmed through global warming. You have trusted us to look after your creation for future generations. Guide our actions so that they are always thoughtful and mindful of our planet and all that exists on it. We ask this in your name. Amen.

6th class Delgany N.S.

Dear Lord, in our school we are learning how to reduce using plastic every day as we can see how overusing it is choking the beautiful world you gave us. Help us to become ambassadors for caring for your creation. Amen

St Mary's Parochial School, Clonmel.



Prayers for Others

We pray for those who are hungry and thirsty.
We remember those who live on the streets.
We think about those who do not have enough clothes to keep warm.
We pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital.
We remember those who cannot see or hear or read or write.
Bless the lonely.
Bless those who have lost people they love.
Bless those who have no family or friends.
Bless the animals who are badly treated.
Bless all those who hear this prayer. Amen.

Pupils from The Deanery School, Cashel.

Dear God, thank you for my life, for my family and my friends.
Thank you for clean water, fresh food and the roof over my head. Help those people who do not have the things I do and be with them in their times of need. Heal people who are ill, especially those who are constantly in and out of hospital. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

6th class pupil, Jonathan Swift N.S., Dunlavin.

Dear Lord, we pray for all women, men, boys and girls who are homeless this day:

for those sleeping under bridges, benches, in doorways of shops or bus stations.

for those who can only find shelter for the night.

for those who can't afford to pay their rent.

for those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in.

for those who can't afford clothes, food and water, Amen.

6th class pupil, St Mary's N.S., Carrigaline.

Dear God, thank you for giving us a family that loves us and a roof over our heads to keep us safe. Lord, we don't need anything else, but we know others do in our world. Please help people with a lack of food, education and a home. Save the people who are forced to leave their homes because of war, famine and poverty. We ask you to plant the message of peace and unity in the minds of those who use violence in our world. Amen.

4th, 5th & 6th Class pupils, Wandesforde N.S., Castlecomer.

Dear God, help to keep me and my loved ones safe,
but even more, please help the children used as slaves,
who don't have food and water,
who have lost their loved ones,
who are suffering from abuse and illness
and those who are affected by war. Amen.

6th class pupil, Jonathan Swift N.S., Dunlavin.

God of all nations, we pray for those who are living in a place of conflict or war. We ask that you will walk beside those who do not know peace. We thank you that we have peace in our country and that we have safe homes to go to. May we think often of those who are less fortunate than ourselves and not take the good things in our life for granted. Amen.

Senior Room pupils, All Saints' N.S., Blackrock.

Dear God, help all the people of the world that need it, like those in
and other countries that are at war at this time.

We pray for our brothers and sisters in wartime countries where people are overwhelmed by death and hatred. Let us especially pray for the children in these countries afraid of life and death. We pray for the families that have lost someone important to them.

We pray for peacekeepers who go to protect these people. We pray that they will come home unharmed. Amen.

6th class pupils St Mary's N.S., Carrigaline.

Dear God we pray for world peace.

We pray for people who have lost their lives during war and we pray for their families and for people whose lives have changed forever, after war.

We pray for the injured and for people who helped them.

Please help those who are fighting in war at the moment.

Help us to keep peace in our homes and to not seek fights with our friends and families.

Help us to understand that, although at times it may be hard, we have to try to be nice to everyone and to remember that without fighting, the world would be a much better place. Amen.

Pupil. Templebreedy N.S., Crosshaven.

Our country

God of all nations

We pray for Ireland, this beautiful country.

Bless all who live here, wherever they come from.

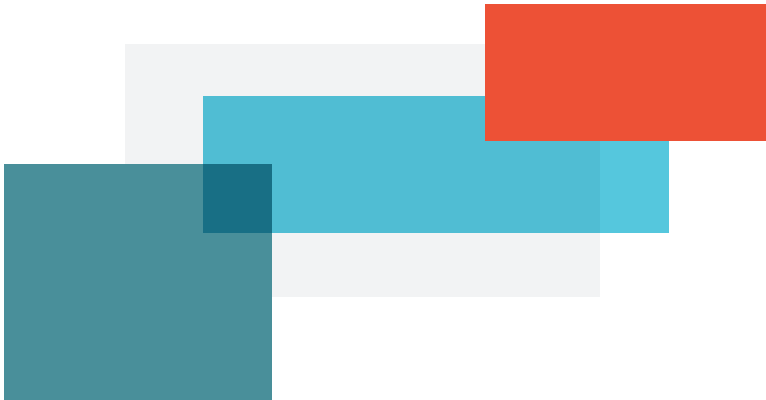
Bless those who rule us, because they need our prayers.

Make our country a peaceful and happy place.

Help us to be proud of it, to play our part as young citizens,

And to make sure those who come after us can enjoy it too. Amen.

Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.



Prayers for sick people

Dear God, we pray for children who are sick in hospital. Help them not to feel scared or alone; we pray that they will feel your presence at this time. Help them to know that you are always with them and they are never alone. We know from the Bible that you are an all-powerful God and a God of miracles; you can move mountains, calm storms, make blind men see, lame men walk, deaf people hear and you were the one who healed Jairus' daughter. We pray for the same power and healing at this time.

We pray for the families of these sick children, we pray that they may feel your presence and know that you are with them. Encourage them to rejoice in the hope that you have given us, give them the strength through you to endure these hardships and help them to find comfort in you, Lord.

Finally we pray for the doctors and nurses, we are so thankful for each and every one of them, we pray that you will guide all they do.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Ms Power, St Andrew's N.S. Lucan.

Dear God, we pray for the people who are sick in hospital at this time. May everyone give them support in every way possible. We pray that they will lift up their heads and will fight their illnesses so they are soon better again. Amen.

Pupil, Model School, Bailieborough.

Father in heaven watch over our loved ones.

Keep them by your side.

May they be safe and peaceful, in you may they abide.

Give wisdom to the doctors and nurses too we pray,
renew their strength and bless them for the work they do each day.

Send healing and restoration and let them feel your love.

May your Holy Spirit give them rest as gentle as a dove. Amen.

Ms Melanie O'Sullivan, St. Brendan's N.S., Bantry.

Lord Jesus, when you lived on earth, you healed the sick and suffering.
Bless all those who carry on your work today in our hospitals, nursing homes and care centres.

Give patience, wisdom and understanding to doctors, nurses and carers, and we ask your special blessing on anyone who is ill, in pain, worried or upset.

Look down in mercy on them and give them your peace and comfort.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Ms Beryl Trenier, Fairgreen N.S., Belturbet.

Dear God, we pray for all those who are sick at the minute especially those who have serious illnesses like cancer. Please help their families to stay positive.

Thank you for all the wonderful miracles you have done especially for all the people who have been cured of their illnesses. We thank you for all the days we wake up feeling happy and healthy. Thank you for answering our prayers.

Amen.

St John's N.S. Edgeworthstown.

God and Father of all

You know that N... [insert name here] is sick in hospital and we remember her/him today.

Hospital can be a scary and worrying place and we pray that she/he would know you are with her/him, that she/he would feel your loving arms around her/him. Help and guide the doctors and nurses who are looking after her/him that she/he would be healed to wholeness in body, mind and spirit.

In Jesus name. Amen.

The Revd Jennifer McWhirter, Children's Ministry Network.

At a time of bereavement in the school community

Lord, we think of the family today. We pray that you would comfort them and protect them.

We pray for your peace in their hearts and that you would give them strength. God, we pray that you would remind them that heaven is a place of joy with no suffering or sorrow. We pray that they would know we will meet our loved ones in heaven.

Thank you God that you mind us and protect us through everything in our lives on earth. Amen.

Ms Beverley Maxwell, Rathfarnham Parish N.S.

Tragic Situations

Tragic situations : This prayer is recommended for Assembly in the aftermath of a tragic event – local / national or international.

Jesus, our loving friend

A terrible thing has happened today.

We don't know what words to use.

In bad times people need a friend to hold their hand -

We think of those who need their hands held now.

Let them know that is what you offer them.

No words. Just love and shared tears. Amen.

Rt Revd Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory.



On the death of a pet

Dear Lord, as we say goodbye to our pet, we thank you for all the years we have spent together.

We remember when we first got to meet, all the fun that we had, all the times taught us about what it is to love and care for another creature.

We thank you for all the animals in the world, and we thank you for all the people who look after and genuinely care about them.

We recognise your handiwork in all of creation and we thank you that we got to have in our lives. Although we are sad now and we will really miss having in our lives, we also know that we are so much the richer for our time together. Amen.

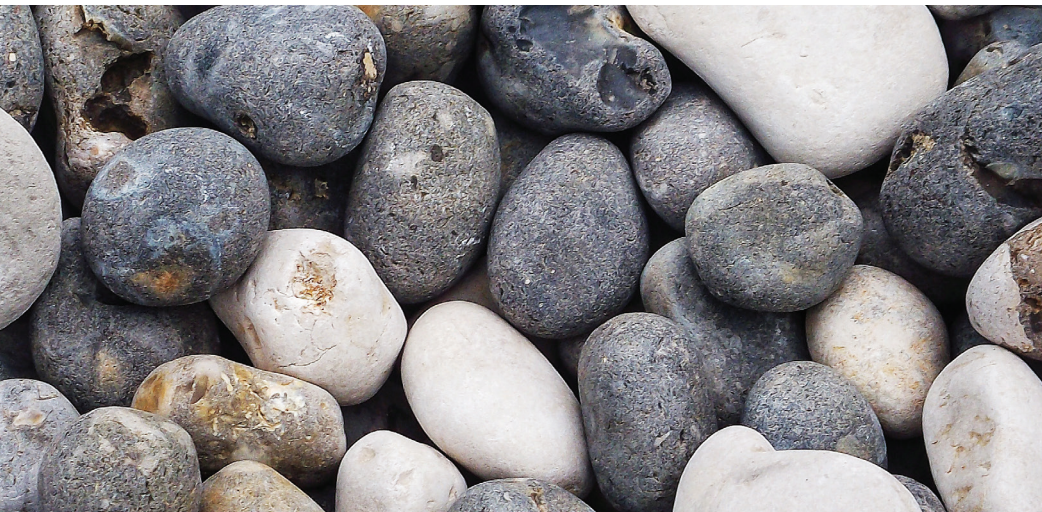
The Revd Elaine Murray, Children's Ministry Network.

Dear Jesus our friend, (insert name)..... feels so sad and not everyone understands why.'s pet.....has died and it hurts. misses being with..... and wishes he/she was still here. Lord Jesus, help to always remember the wonderful times together, the love they had for each other and the fun that was had. Help to remember with joy, even though it may take a while. Amen.

Mr Mark Howard, Delgany N.S.

Heavenly Father, it says in the Bible that long ago five sparrows could be bought for two pennies, yet every one of them was known to you. Today we rememberwho has died. This is a very sad time for (insert name) in our class. Please rememberwho was a lovely pet and friend to Thank you for the lovely lifehad with..... and the family. God bless everyone who is feeling sad at this time. Amen.

Mr Mark Howard, Delgany N.S.



General Prayers

A prayer for help

Lord Jesus, when you gave us the order to love each other, you knew it wouldn't be easy. Help us when we find it difficult to obey your command.

When we feel cross or irritable, help us to be patient.

When we are tempted to say or do something unkind, help us to change.

When we are jealous of others, help us to be thankful.

When we are angry or resentful, give us your peace.

Help us to see the good in others, and help us to live as your children in the world.
Amen.

Ms Beryl Trenier, Fairgreen N.S., Belturbet.

Celebrating our uniqueness

Dear God, thank you for making us all different and unique.

Thank you for the variety of talents and skills that we all have within us.

Help us to celebrate each other's special attributes and give us the courage and perseverance to develop our own talents.

Help us to be happy with our unique abilities and to be happy for others' different skills.

Help us to use our talents to lift and inspire others and to always make you proud. Amen.

3rd Class, Whitechurch N.S.

Dear Father, sometimes, in school or at home, we go through hard times.

Help us to find solutions for our problems.

Help us to find answers for our questions.

Help us to remember that you are always there for us, that you will love us even if we make mistakes.

Help us to remember that we are only human.

Help us to understand that if we have the power to make mistakes, we have the power to solve them.

Help us to go through our lives with ready minds and open hearts.

Stay beside us in the darkness and may your love burn with the flame of a candle, lighting our way and guiding us. Amen.

Pupils of Abbeystrewry N.S., Skibbereen.

Saying sorry

If you did a bad thing

mend it and make it good

If you said a bad thing to someone

say you are sorry and that you feel bad.

If you lied to someone

tell the truth and say you're sorry.

Sometimes you don't want to tell the truth,

but people will understand and it's better to get it off your chest.

Pupil, Desertserges N.S., Enniskeane.

A Sorry Prayer

Dear God, we are sorry for the times we don't care for our world or other people as you would want us to.

For the words we have said which have hurt others;

Father forgive us.

For the things we have done which have hurt others;

Father forgive us.

For the times that we didn't help others;

Father forgive us.

We are sorry for our mistakes. Help us to remember that you forgive us and give us a fresh start. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Thank you God for this new day,

for a good home and friends,

for trips to the park,

for our food and drink and for the hands that made it.

Thank you God for our school

and our world in which we pray.

We wish for a peaceful world, and a healthy world where people from different places are kind to each other. Amen.

The Junior Room, Jonathan Swift N.S., Dunlavin.

Dear God, thank you for your creation. We love the world you have made.
Thank you for animals that we can love and care for each day.
We are sorry that we sin against you, sometimes we get annoyed or angry and it hurts others. Help us to be friends again.
Please let tomorrow be a good day.
If someone is sick, please help them and make them healthy again.
If someone is sad, please make them happy again.
Thank you for everything. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Senior Room Pupils, Killygordan N.S.

Thank you, God for all the things you have helped us with.
Thank you for our school, our families, our friends and our food.
We ask that you help the homeless people and the families caught up in war,
Help all the children that need you right now and help lead them on the right path.
Help us to share your love around the world so people learn your love and forgiveness.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Ms Sarah O'Brien and 5th and 6th class pupils, St David's N.S., Naas.

Thank you, God for all of our friends at home and at school.

- for our families
- for our aunts and uncles and cousins
- for our wonderful school
- for our pets
- for the world and for taking care of us
- and for food and water.

Thank you for loving us, our friends and families
Thank you God for hope and joy.
O God our Father, help the world be healthy, help the poor and make sure everybody is safe. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

3rd class St Patrick's N.S., Morristown.

Dear God, help us to count our blessings, one by one.

We are blessed that we have food for mealtimes.

We are blessed that we have a loving family.

We are blessed that we can gain an education.

We are blessed that we are full of life and energy.

We are blessed that we return to a safe, loving home.

We are blessed that we can end the day in peaceful sleep.

We count our blessings, one by one. Amen.

Ms Dawn Ovington and 5th class pupils, Blessington No1 N.S.

Dear God, sometimes it is important to take the time to reflect and think about our lives.

We need to be thankful for all we have and we need to be mindful of those who aren't as fortunate as we are.

Thank you, God, for the living and we especially remember those who are no longer with us.

Please be with us through every step of our lives, on good days and bad days too.

In your name. Amen.

Pupils in 3rd,4th,5th and 6th classes, St Edan's N.S., Ferns.

Dear God, thank you for our families and friends.

Thank you for everyone we love.

Please help us to be good and always follow your ways.

Please keep us all safe and healthy.

Please help the homeless have a home and make the sick better.

Thank you that we have a house.

Please keep everyone happy.

Thank you that you always supply us with enough.

Thank you for everything.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

5th Class pupil, St Paul's N.S., Mountmellick.

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us teachers so we can learn,
Thank you for allowing us to attend school and help us to work
as hard as we can.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thank you for food to eat and water to drink,
Thank you for keeping us healthy and safe.
Thank you for keeping our friends and family safe.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

We pray for all the animals across the world, especially those that are
endangered.

Please allow animals to live a long and safe life.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thank you God for everything we have.
Thank you for keeping us safe and happy.
Thank you for keeping a roof over our heads.
Please bless the homeless.

In Jesus' name Amen.

Pupils from Monasterosis N.S., Edenderry.



(based on the) Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Dear God,

Let your harmony and kindness flow through us.

Let your peace conquer all evil.

Forgive us, Lord, if we hurt others
and if we are unsure, help us to believe in you.

**O Lord, allow us not to look
for comfort, but to give it.
To accept others as they are
and to love with all our hearts every day.**

Let your harmony and kindness flow through us,
When friends feel down, let us bring them back up.
When there is blackness, we will be sunlight
and when there's misery, we will bring happiness.

Let your harmony and kindness flow through us,
As by forgiving others, we are forgiven too.
When we give something, that makes us happy too,
and when we die, we will be with God in heaven.

Ms Sinéad Solleveld and 5th and 6th class pupils South Abbey N.S., Youghal.

(based on the) Lord's Prayer (Ár n-Athair)

Loving Lord, powerful God, forgiving master, caring friend and healer.

Ár nathair atá ar neamh

You are to be thanked and praised for you made the world for us.

Go naofar d'ainm

We look forward to a perfect world where there is peace between people who believe in you, have faith in your power and obey you by praying, listening and doing what you say each day, just like in heaven.

Go dtaga do ríocht, go ndéantar do thoil ar talamh mar a dhéantar ar neamh.

Please help us at home and at school to be friends with everybody, to do our best at all times.

Please help people who are going through hard times so they know you are with them and they are able to talk to you.

Please help people to be kinder in our country. Help our leaders to make right decisions.

Please help people in our world to make sure that everybody has food and clean water, clothes and shelter and the right to live in a safe world where peacefulness rises in people and there is love.

Ár n-áran laethiúil tabhair dúinn inniu.

We are sorry when we fight with our brothers and sisters, when we get mad about little things, when we don't listen to our parents, when we sometimes steal, don't tell the exact truth and don't do as we're told at school.

Agus maith dúinn ár gcionta

Mar a mhaithimidne dá gciontaíonn inár n-aghaidh

Help us not to do things like lying, stealing, ridiculing people, using your name carelessly, hurting people, excluding people, gossiping and spreading nasty rumours.

Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú

Keep us safe from being bullied, from abuse, from making bad choices and from being sad or lonely.

Ach saor sinn ón olc

We tell you our thoughts God because you are special: you are mighty, you are strong, you are powerful and best of all, you love us all the time.

Óir is leatsa an ríocht, an chumhacht is an ghlóir trí shaol na saol. Áiméan.

Ms Heather Smith and pupils from Fermoy Adair School.

Family Prayers

Mother's Day

M other who cares for me,
O ffers all her prayers for me,
T ime put aside for me,
H eart filled with love for me.
E ncourages me to be who I am,
R emains my Mother always for me.

6th Class pupil, Liosmór Mochuda N.S., Lismore.

God, thank you for mothers who love us so much. Thank you for all the work they do for us, let them know how much we appreciate everything they do for us – even if we forget to say thank you!

Thank you for those people in our lives who are like mothers to us, the people who care for us, offer us advice and are always willing to help us.

We are very glad to have these people in our lives and ask that you would be with them always. Amen.

Kirsty Lynch, Diocesan Children's Ministry Office, Derry and Raphoe.

Dear Lord, we want to thank you for all the wonderful women in your world. You made women kind, loving and thoughtful. Thank you for all the women that look after us at home, when we are sick and when we have no school.

We thank you for our mothers, aunts, grannies, great aunts, great grannies, teachers and all other women that look after us. Amen.

4th class pupil Drumacrutin N.S., Monaghan.

A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

God of love, this Sunday we will be remembering all mothers everywhere. We give thanks for their love for us, and that they are there for us when we are happy and when we are sad.

We also give thanks for the family of the church. Help us to remember that we are all part of God's family and that we experience love and care through the church community too.

As we pray for all mothers, we do this in the name of Jesus Christ who also knew what it was to be loved by his mother too. Amen.

Father's Day Prayer

God our father, bless all the dads in the world:

Dads who make us laugh when they play with us,
Dads who are brave and protective,
Dads who seek to be good role models.

Give them grace and patience in every situation as sometimes being a dad isn't easy.

When our dads worry (and we know they sometimes do), remind them that you are their father in heaven and you will take care of their needs.

Help us to let them know how much we love them.
and how much you love them also. Amen.

The Revd Rob Clements, Sunday School Society.

God, in the Bible you are sometimes called Abba or Father.

That name is given to you because of your gentleness and your strength

That name is given to you because of your shield of protection around your children

That name is given to you because of your tender love and care.

Thank you God for our fathers.

Thank you that they make time for us, care for us and help us to grow more and more like you each day.

Thank you for the times of laughter and playfulness and the times of learning and growth.

We pray that they would know that their love, care and provision will have a lasting impact.

We pray that they would know their value and their worth as fathers. Amen

Children's Ministry Network.

Grandparents

Dear God, we give thanks for our grandparents, their unconditional love and for shielding us in hugs like no one else.

We give thanks for our grandparents, the wonderful anchors of the family whose invaluable advice is offered when needed.

We give thanks for our grandparents, for the immeasurable wisdom they bestow and the family history they hold dear.

We give thanks for our grandparents, for their generosity shown and the immense kindness felt.

We give thanks to you God for that special unbreakable bond between us and our grandparents which lives in the heart and memory forever. Amen.

Ms Ciara Barrett, Greenlanes N.S., Clontarf.

Loving Father, whose son Jesus Christ enjoyed the love of an earthly family, we give you thanks for our grandparents, for the love they share, the wisdom they impart, and the happiness they bring.

Bless them in their lives, keep them safe in all they do, and sustain them in their health. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Cobh Mixed N.S.

Dear God, thank you for our caring Grandparents.

Thank you for all of the happy memories and the special bond we all have.

We would not be able to do lots of things if our Grandparents were not here.

Thank you for all of the carers and lovely people who help our Grandparents.

We pray for those children whose Grandparents have died, please help them when they are sad. Amen.

3rd Class pupil, Greenlanes N.S. Clontarf.

The Church Year

Patronal festival. If your school is named after a saint, there is a special day in the year when that saint is remembered.

Dear God, this is a special day for our school as we celebrate Saint N's..... Day. We thank you for the many links we have between our church and our school. We thank you for all your faithful servants down the centuries who shared the love of God with others, especially Saint N.....
As we remember their examples help us to be faithful followers of Jesus in our time and where we are. Amen.

Advent

Heavenly Father, through this season of Advent, we prepare for our Christmas celebrations of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ.

In all the busy times this term, help us to see the importance of your love for us. Show us new ways to share the message of your love for all people. We pray this in the name of Jesus, whose coming we eagerly await. Amen.

Christmas

Heavenly Father as we get closer to Christmas with all its excitement may we enjoy the special times at home with our families. We also pray for those children for whom this Christmas may be sad or lonely. As we give and receive presents, we pray that we will always remember the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of your son Jesus. Amen.

Dear God help us to remember the real meaning of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. Please help the homeless and less fortunate this Christmas. May everyone have a safe and warm Christmas with family and friends. Give us hope and joy this Christmas. Amen.

Ms Guinane and 6th class, St. Luke's N.S., Douglas.

Heavenly Father, may this Christmas be a time of sharing, giving, love and happiness. Thank you Lord for this wonderful occasion and for our friends and family. On this occasion please help those who are less fortunate and lonely. Thank you for Christmas, a time that unites all friends and families. Amen

6th class pupil, St Patrick's N.S., Newbridge.

Epiphany

Holy God, in this season of Epiphany we celebrate how you were revealed to the wise men who travelled from the East to find you. At the end of their journey, when they recognised you, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We think of the gifts we have received at Christmas, please help us also to be generous to others. May all we do flow from hearts filled with thanks for your greatest gift to us, your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Shrove Tuesday

Sorry, Lord, for things we do that we know are wrong.

Help us to forgive others and to prepare for Lent.

Regret is a good thing Lord, we can then try and put things right.

Open our hearts to changing our ways for the better.

Valuing our family and friends sometimes needs your support.

Enrich us Lord, through our prayers and our thinking of others. Amen.

Mr Mark Howard, Delgany N.S.

Ash Wednesday

As You Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness, help us to think and pray.

Sharing means everything to you Lord, we must share what we have as fairly as we can.

Holy! Let us pray to God who can help us overcome difficulties in our lives. Amen.

Mr Mark Howard, Delgany N.S.

Lent

Listening to you Lord God is so important. There is so much going on in our lives we often forget to listen. Help us to hear you more, we pray.

Everything good comes from you Heavenly Father, but please help us always to remember that not everyone in the world is treated fairly by others.

Never let us forget all our blessings.

Temptation is so hard to avoid Father God, what seems like the more enjoyable thing to do can actually be wrong. Help us to listen to our conscience and follow your ways of goodness, kindness and righteousness. Amen.

Mr Mark Howard, Delgany N.S.

Palm Sunday

Lord Jesus, on Palm Sunday you rode into Jerusalem as King.

remind us to keep you as King of our lives.

You rode on a donkey.

remind us of your humility and keep us from being proud or boastful.

The crowds shouted "Hosanna! Save us!"

remind us that we need you as our Saviour.

The people spread palm branches and coats in front of you.

remind us to lay our lives before you.

You kept going on to Jerusalem even though you knew what was ahead.

remind us to keep going even when it's tough.

Whenever we feel discouraged or down,

remind us of your love for us. Amen.

Ms Beryl Trenier, Fairgreen N.S., Belturbet.

Easter

God of new life, on Good Friday we remember how Jesus' friends felt sad and helpless when they saw him die on the cross and be buried in a tomb.

Now at Easter, we celebrate that Jesus' death was not the end and that his friends' sadness turned to great joy when Jesus rose from the dead and returned to them with the promise of new life for all people.

We share in their joy this Easter time. Amen.

Ascension

Heavenly Father, after Jesus rose from the dead he spent time with his disciples and friends before returning to you.

He promised them that through the Holy Spirit he would be with them always. Help us to remember that though we cannot see Jesus that he is with us and is our true friend. Amen.

Pentecost

Holy Spirit of God, sent to be our guide, you are present in our world today.

You are like a dove which brings peace to calm us and peace to our world.

You are like fire, which brings warmth, light and power to change us for the better. You are like wind that blows, refreshes us and moves us into new experiences. Holy Spirit of God, bring us peace and help us to share your love with others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Ven. Adrian Wilkinson, Cork.

Harvest

Thank you God for water:

The life sustaining water which yields the harvest

is the water which soaks us when we play in the rain,
is the water of the shower which warms us afterwards,
is the water which rids our faces of stains of chocolate ice cream,
is the water which washes our muddy trousers,
is the water which cleanses our cut knees,
is the water-which satisfies our thirst,
is the water of the occasional snowball,
is the water of the cooked pasta.

Water is everywhere, yet water is precious.

This is the life sustaining water which yields the harvest.

Thank you God for water. Amen.



Closing Prayers

The Lord be with you
 And also with you
Let us bless the Lord
 Thanks be to God

Go raibh an Tiarna libh
 Agus leat féin.
Beannaímis ainm an Tiarna
 Buíochas le Dia.

The Lord bless us and keep us
The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us peace.

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.

Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

May we know you more clearly
Love you more dearly
Follow you more nearly
Day by day. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Traditional Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.



Paidir an Tiarna

Ár nAthair, atá ar neamh,
go naofar d'ainm,
go dtaga do ríocht,
go ndéantar do thoil
ar talamh mar a dhéantar ar neamh.
Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu.
Agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha,
mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin.
Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú,
ach saor sinn ón olc.
Óir is leatsa an ríocht, agus an chumhacht agus an ghlóir,
trí shaol na saol. Áiméan.

The Grace

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

An Grásta

Go raibh grásta ár dTiarna Íosa Críost, agus grá Dé, agus cumann an Spioraid Naoimh linn go léir. Áiméan.

St Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me.
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger.
Christ in hearts of all that love me
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

STOP Poem

Sometimes when I talk to God my thoughts are in a mess.
I want to sort my questions out and take away my stress.
I hold my chin and scratch my head and with my hand on top.
I remember four important letters, letters spelling STOP!

S for sorry, time to think of all the things I've done,
Things I am not proud of, things that were not fun.
I think and then apologise, I tell God I am sorry.
And I will try and do my best so I don't have to worry.

T for thanks, and time to be so full of gratitude.
For friends and family and homes and clothes and lots of food.
I make a list and tell my God of all the things I love.
It makes me feel so good to tell the Father up above.

O for others, this is when my mind begins to wonder,
I think of people in my life and all of those out yonder.
What do I think that they might need? Why do they need my prayers?
I can tell God all about them, my worries and my cares.

P for please, the last of all my prayers is for my wishes.
What do I ask for, in my life, my school, my church, my parish?
How can my God help me to be the best that I can be?
To listen, to learn, to teach, to grow, to make my mark – yippee!

So when I talk to God and I have trouble with my plan.
I STOP and think of all the letters in that word I can.
Sorry, thanks, others, please these topics are the spaces
My thoughts will fit and then my prayers will cover all the bases!

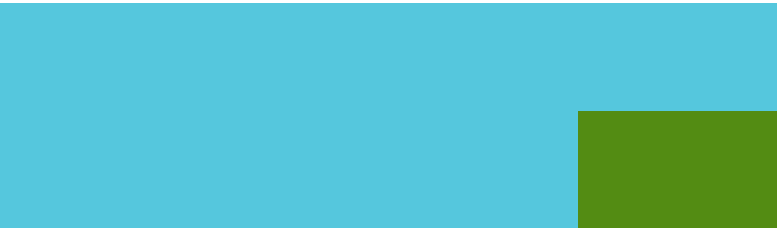
Ms Carolyn Good(Principal), Carrigduff N.S., Bunclody.

Index of Schools

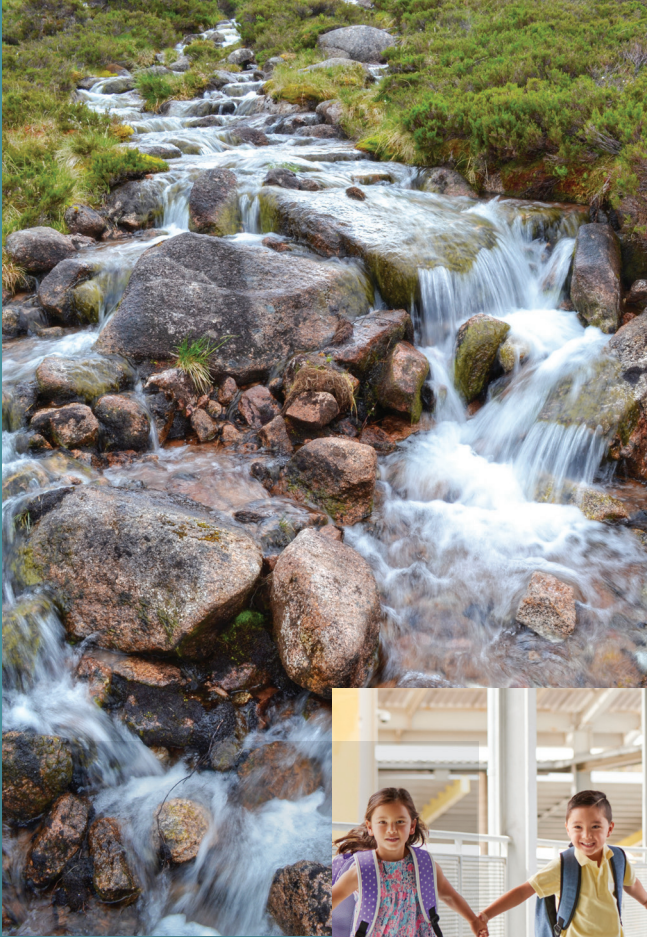
Abbeyleix South N.S., Laois
Abbeystrewry N.S., Cork
All Saints N.S., Blackrock, Dublin
All Saints N.S., Carnew
Ballinlough N.S., Roscommon
Bandonbridge N.S., Cork
Blessington No 1 N.S., Wicklow
Carlow N.S.
Carrigduff N.S., Bunclody
Carysfort N.S., Arklow
Cashel Deanery School, Tipperary
Cobh Mixed N.S.
Delgany N.S., Wicklow
Desertserges N.S., Cork
Drumacrutin N.S., Monaghan
Fairgreen N.S., Belturbet
Fermoy Adair N.S., Cork
Glebe N.S., Wicklow
Gorey Central School, Wexford
Greenlanes N.S., Dublin
Hewetsons N.S., Clane
Jonathan Swift N.S., Wicklow
Kells Parochial N.S., Meath
Killeshandra N.S., Cavan
Killygordan N.S., Donegal
Liosmór Mochuda, Lismore
Maryborough N.S., Portlaoise
Model School, Bailieborough
Model School, Kilkenny
Monasteroris N.S., Edenderry
Powerscourt N.S., Wicklow
Rathfarnham Parish N.S., Dublin
Rathdowney N.S., Laois
Rathkeale No2 School, Limerick
St Andrew's N.S., Lucan
St Brendan's N.S., Bantry
St David's N.S., Naas
St. Luke's N.S., Douglas
St Edan's N.S., Ferns
St Fin Barre's N.S., Cork
St James N.S., Durrus, Cork
St John's N.S., Edgeworthstown
St Mary's N.S., Carrigaline, Cork
St Mary's N.S., Clonmel
St Mary's N.S., Templemore
St Michael's N.S., Ballina
St. Michael's N.S., Blackrock, Cork
St Nicholas N.S., Dundalk
St Patrick's N.S., Morristown
St Patrick's N.S., Newbridge
St Paul's N.S., Mountmellick
St Thomas' N.S., Rathowen
Shillelagh N.S., Wicklow
South Abbey N.S., Youghal
Taney N.S., Dublin
Tounagh N.S., Riverstown
Templebreedy N.S., Cork
Wandesforde N.S., Kilkenny
Whitechurch N.S., Dublin

All original imagery within this book are photographed by Darren Wilkinson.
Cover imagery were externally sourced.









DCU Church of Ireland Centre
CIC Office, AHCDG09,
Dunboyne House, DCU All Hallows,
Dublin 9, Ireland.

E: cic@dcu.ie

T: +353 1 700 6074

W: www.dcu.ie/church-of-ireland-centre/