

R.E. News

Diocesan Advisers, Education Secretariat,
Archbishop's House, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

Ph: 837 9253 Fax: 836 8393

Email: bgilligan@dubcated.org

Welcome to the second edition of R.E. News for this academic year.

This Spring edition of R.E. News has a variety of articles to offer our readers.
Many thanks to all those who contributed to this Newsletter.

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**We welcome your thoughts and
comments and look forward to your
continued support and guidance as we
continue our journey in faith together.
If you have any interesting events coming
up please let us know with a view to
featuring them in a future edition.**

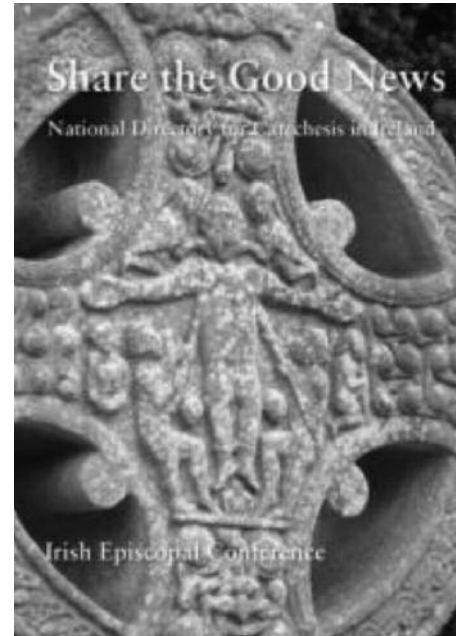


NATIONAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS IN IRELAND

Share the Good News: An Overview

This overview of the Directory seeks to answer the following basic questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How?

Who does the Directory address? The Directory is addressed to everyone who is engaged in Faith Development. In particular it is addressed to adults who already have a catechetical role as parents, teachers, as interested lay people. It obviously also addresses those in ministerial positions in the Church. It reaches out in Christ's love to all: those who experience social disadvantage, people with special needs, people who have physical disabilities, people with special learning needs, the deaf community, the travelling community, migrant workers and other newcomers, people living with illness.



What is the National Directory? The Directory is not a book that contains lists in alphabetical order, rather it is a document that seeks to give direction. It presents a framework and principles for the presentation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. The National Directory bears the title Share the Good News. It is a ten year plan for Evangelisation, for Catechesis and for Religious Education from the perspective of the Catholic Church.

Where will this ten year plan take place? It will take place in Homes, in Parishes, in Schools and in other local Adult Educational Environments. It will be introduced at Local, at Diocesan and at National levels.

When will this take place? From the point of view of implementation and dissemination, plans are already in the making for the widespread dispersal of the Directory. From the point of view of Faith Development, the Directory envisages this happening at all stages in life – from the cradle to the grave.

Why have a National Directory? Both the General Catechetical Directory (1971) and the General Directory for Catechesis (1997) had as their immediate goal to assist in the composition of local catechetical directories. The Church in Ireland has accepted that helpful invitation and has now produced its own National Directory. Our Directory is the third National Directory in the English language to have received a recognitio from Rome. The others were the USCCB directory of 2003 and the one from the Philippines in 2007. From the point of view of sharing the Good News this is an opportune time to witness to the power of the gospel given the culture and challenges of our time. Now is an opportune time to have increased coordination, collaboration and teamwork at all levels in the Church in order to take faith development and evangelisation forward.

How will all of this be achieved? The final section of the National Directory deals with the implementation and resources for supporting the Good News. This section is eminently practical and deals in turn with parish communities, Diocesan faith development services, national co-operation, schooling, Church organisations, Christian communities, ecclesiastical movements, faith formation and resources. For each of these areas there are faith development objectives listed as well as specific indicators of achievement for each objective. The National Directory for Catechesis in Ireland is a ten year plan and not a reference book.

Conclusion: The following quotation is taken from the Conclusion of the Directory:

“Now is the time to rediscover our mission, to clarify our objectives and to set ourselves appropriate goals. In order to be an evangelising and catechising Church, we commit ourselves fully to the vision laid out in this Directory, as an expression of who we are. It is an ambitious project. The objectives put before us in the final chapter set us on a journey together. The challenge for us now is to revitalise our Christian lives and find the new direction that our times and circumstances require. In all the different situations considered in this reflection, whether at home, in parish, in school, at diocesan, regional or national level, our purpose is the same: to reach out and together touch and feel and bring alive the coming Reign of God.”

Brendan O'Reilly
National Director for Catechetics

Glendalough Retreat

With thanks to Catherine Clarke, Grange Community College.

Resources:

- Laptop with music or CD player/CDs
- Wool
- Candles and matches
- Student booklets
- Worksheet - The Journey of my Life so Far
- Bible



Location: *Saint Kevin's Church in Glendalough (a time can be booked in advance with the parish office).*

Long ago people travelled long distances to holy places. They stopped now and then to rest and to share stories - no doubt they also said a few prayers along the way. As we enter into Glendalough we know that we are standing on Holy Ground here in the home of Saint Kevin.

Today as we begin our retreat we will be reflecting on the journey of our lives so far. We will be thinking about our faith journey and how since our baptism God has been part of our lives.....

On these journeys, who have we met? Is there anyone who influenced our lives?
What were the good experiences we had? What were the bad experiences?
Are there choices that we made that affected our lives?

Reading

Road to Emmaus and Emmaus walk.

Students fill out work page on the journey of their lives so far (share with those next to them).

You may offer a guided meditation of your choice.

Reading Ecclesiastes - “for everything there is a season”.....



Final prayer:

Lord of all seasons, Lord of Spring

We ask you to hear our prayers

We ask you to bless us on our journey through life

Bless our family, bless our friends, bless our work and our school

Walk with us, be present to us

We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

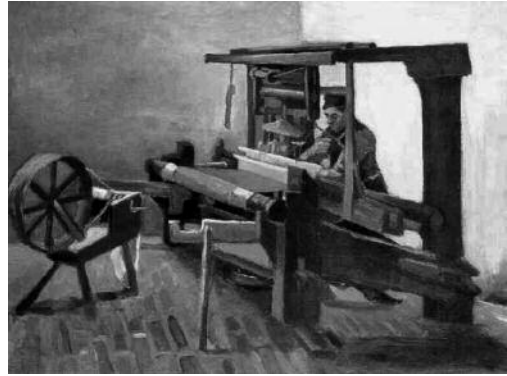
We begin our journey



Move outside, gather the students in a circle and do wool exercise. Students throw a ball of wool and say one good quality that they have experienced in another member of their class e.g. Mary is friendly.....students are given a chance to reflect on this and it continues until all students have received a piece of the ball of wool.read the reflection about the divine weaver.....

The weaver:

We are God's work of art - every day and every moment God weaves the beautiful fabric of our lives, only God knows the plans that he has for us. God weaves into our lives experiences of joy, experiences of sorrow. He invites us to become part of the great tapestry of creation. Look around you, look at the sites of this place and the tapestry of the hills, the sky, the grass, the birds, the trees that he has created. Look at the tapestry of humanity that he has created and the qualities that he has given each one of us, the capacity to care, to be kind, to



have a laugh, to get upset, to be unique. Are we prepared to trust God and to let him create a plan for each one of us? Are we open to the tapestries that he is weaving for each one of us. Are we willing to invite God into our lives, to be part of our story.....?

Scripture says:

Lord, you have seen what is in my heart.
You know all about me.
You know when I sit down and when I get up.
You know what I'm thinking even though you are far away.
You know when I go out to work and when I come back home.
You know exactly how I live.
Lord, even before I speak a word,
you know all about it.
You are all around me. You are behind me and in front of me.
You hold me in your power.
You created the deepest parts of my being.
You put me together inside my mother's body.
How you made me is amazing and wonderful.
I'm amazed at how well you know me.
It's more than I can understand.

Go to the labyrinth at the Visitors Centre and encourage students to walk the path - allow them to reflect in silence on the high and low points of their lives, the twists and turns that their lives have taken. At the end of this exercise gather students into a circle and invite them to share their experience either in the large group or in smaller ones.

Move to the graveyard - choose a reading from scripture that is relevant to death e.g. Paul to the Romans or the Raising of Lazarus. Pause, prayer for those who have died.....

Move to waterfall....stop along the way to listen to the sound of nature. Reflect on the image of water rushing down the stream which symbolizes the busyness of life. What does this mean for us today?

Reflection

(to be read at the waterfall or somewhere along the journey)

Be open to this mysterious and obscure sense of presence.

God is here, in the trees, in the wind, in the mountains, in the flowers and in the birds.

God is wonderfully present in all things, working in all things, giving to us in all things.

We cannot see or touch God but we sometimes can sense His healing presence.

If you are troubled look at nature. Gain energy and life from it and feel it as it relaxes your spirit and helps you to let go.

Trees: the oldest tree in Ireland is the birch. Trees are individual and unique yet in a setting like the forest they never stand alone.

Like people trees stretch out, they search for light and they search for life, think about the moments in your life that have been life-giving and be thankful for these. Trees connect heaven and earth (roots, sky) - think about your roots?

Branches represent the need to reach out - How do you reach out to other people?

Move to the Upper Lake. On the way students are invited to pick up a stone/rock. When you get to the upper lake invite students to throw their rock/stone into the lake as a sign of letting go of any worries that they may have at this time and as a sign that they are now ready to move on in life's journey without any burden.

Final blessing.

(You could use one of these three Celtic blessings or a blessing of your choice).

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

The rains fall soft upon your fields and until we
meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire, so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it. And may light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm. And may the blessing of the rain be on you, may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines. And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day; and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it. May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly; up and off and on its way to God. And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.



Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

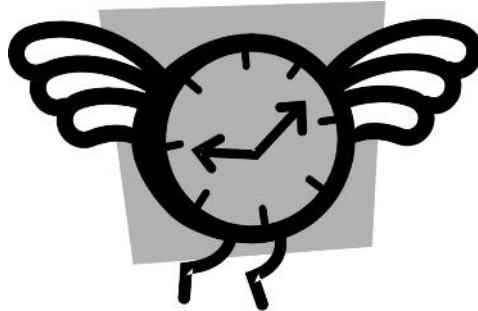
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.



Retreat Day Glendalough

TIME TO THINK
TIME TO REFLECT ON MY LIFE SO FAR
TIME TO PRAY FOR IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN MY LIFE
TIME TO SHARE
TIME TO DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE



Reflection booklet

“Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with you”

“I am the way, the truth and the life, No one can come to the Father except through me”

Your prayer for today - is there anyone/anything you want to pray for?



Wool exercise: write down three things that were said about you as a person



In the grave yard, remember our loved ones who have died.....

Sounds - as you walk along what do you hear, feel, smell, touch? Is there any comment that you want to make about creation - how does it make you feel?

Letting go: we all need to let go from time to time, stop and think - is there anything at this time that's holding me back - am I worried, anxious, have I done something wrong that is affecting my life? Now pick up a stone or a piece of stick, something that symbolises your anxiety - carry it with you and when we reach the upper lake let it go - throw it into the water and take time to ask God to help you with this.....

This is God's Message to you and always remember it.

I made you in my own image and likeness
And when I made you I saw that you were Good
Before the world, I choose you
Choose you in Christ to be holy and spotless
And to live through love in my presence
I chose you to live with me
You are my friend

Do not be afraid for I have saved you
I have called you by your name you are mine
When you go through deep waters and get in trouble I will be with you, when you go through
rivers of difficulty you will not drown
You are precious in my eyes
You are honoured and I love you
You are always in my presence and I hold you by the right hand
Now I will guide you with advice
And in the end receive you into glory
Christ is in you, your hope, and your glory.

Final reflections on the day _____

Religious Education in Action

Christopher Gueret, Tallaght Community School

Many a time in the classroom a teacher calls on a student to undertake a task and all he or she hears in return is an abrupt remark like 'I can't do it' or 'I don't know anything about that!'

As religious educators, we are faced with these 'can't do' attitudes from students all the time, especially when they are asked to challenge themselves and engage with key aspects of their faith and religion.



In our lessons, we encourage students to explore the areas of morality, philosophy, ritual, prayer, liturgy, world religions, community, and the origins of Christianity in a spirited and meaningful way. We expect them to develop a clear understanding and appreciation of theology and the way in which religious faith has enriched and inspired many people, communities and cultures across the world.

Our students are called to form a bridge of understanding between the philosophies and teachings of the greatest of the prophets, leaders, moral figures and theologians, and their own everyday way of seeing the world. We challenge them to examine, question and reflect upon the place and purpose of religion and faith in a young person's life in modern Ireland.



As we know, it can be extremely difficult for students to comment on the values of Abrahamic sacred laws like the ten commandments in our world today or to describe how prayer helps them strengthen their belief in God. The modern world is extremely fast paced and forward thinking. Our students are constantly exposed to material distractions like video games, mobile phones, the internet, iPod and television. Therefore, it can be difficult to take time out and reflect upon life and its most basic treasures. It can be even more challenging for our students to examine the value and relevance for their lives of some of the greatest religious teachings like 'treat others the way you would like to be treated'.

Students will be able to describe what this means. They will be able to provide examples of how this teaching is practised today. However, if we asked them to get to the heart of this teaching and explain why it is an important lesson for all mankind to learn, it can be difficult for them to really grasp its meaning and its sacred quality. In religion class, we want our students to do more than understand a teaching such as this. We would like them to see for themselves how following such a path would benefit them in so many ways.

Developing an enriched appreciation of religion and faith is not an easy task. It can often take students on a very personal journey in which they question their own relationship with church and God. In my classes, I have used a tool that I feel best caters for such an insightful exploration – project work.

Activity-based learning and research gives students the opportunity to engage with religious concepts and teachings, and to investigate for themselves their place and purpose in the lives of the faithful throughout human history. Project work provides a platform for students to expand their frame of thought and formulate their own opinions and perspectives on key aspects of religious teachings, practices and faith.

Beginning their projects with a set of goals and targets, students are expected to research a variety of resources using a range of media. They are encouraged to take a creative, original and thought provoking perspective/angle on their work and personalise it with their own insights or observations. Students must take pride and responsibility for their projects, and share their hard work with their fellow peers in a class project presentation day.

In my religion class students are expected to complete three major projects throughout the school year. These assignments are linked closely with the Junior and Leaving Certificate syllabuses in religion for both exam and non examination classes. The results of project work contribute to students' Christmas and summer grades.



In the first few months of the school year, my students have been very busy putting their study of religion and faith into action. First Years were asked to transform one of the walls in the school corridor into a display highlighting the key aspects of Ancient Palestine in the time of Jesus. They each had to design an image and provide a written account of a person, place or event associated with this society and time. From profiles of political groups like the Pharisees and the Zealots to a detailed study of the Temple, our wall brought to life the world in which Jesus was born.

During Advent, First Years were also asked to design prayer boxes which were placed under the Christmas tree in the school foyer. Each box was decorated in an ornate fashion and featured a distinctive religious image or word that highlighted the coming of Christ. Each box had an opening for prayers to be put in it. Students were asked to write their own special prayers of thanks which were blessed and placed in their boxes. These projects helped students appreciate the importance of communicating with God and treasuring the words that we share with him.

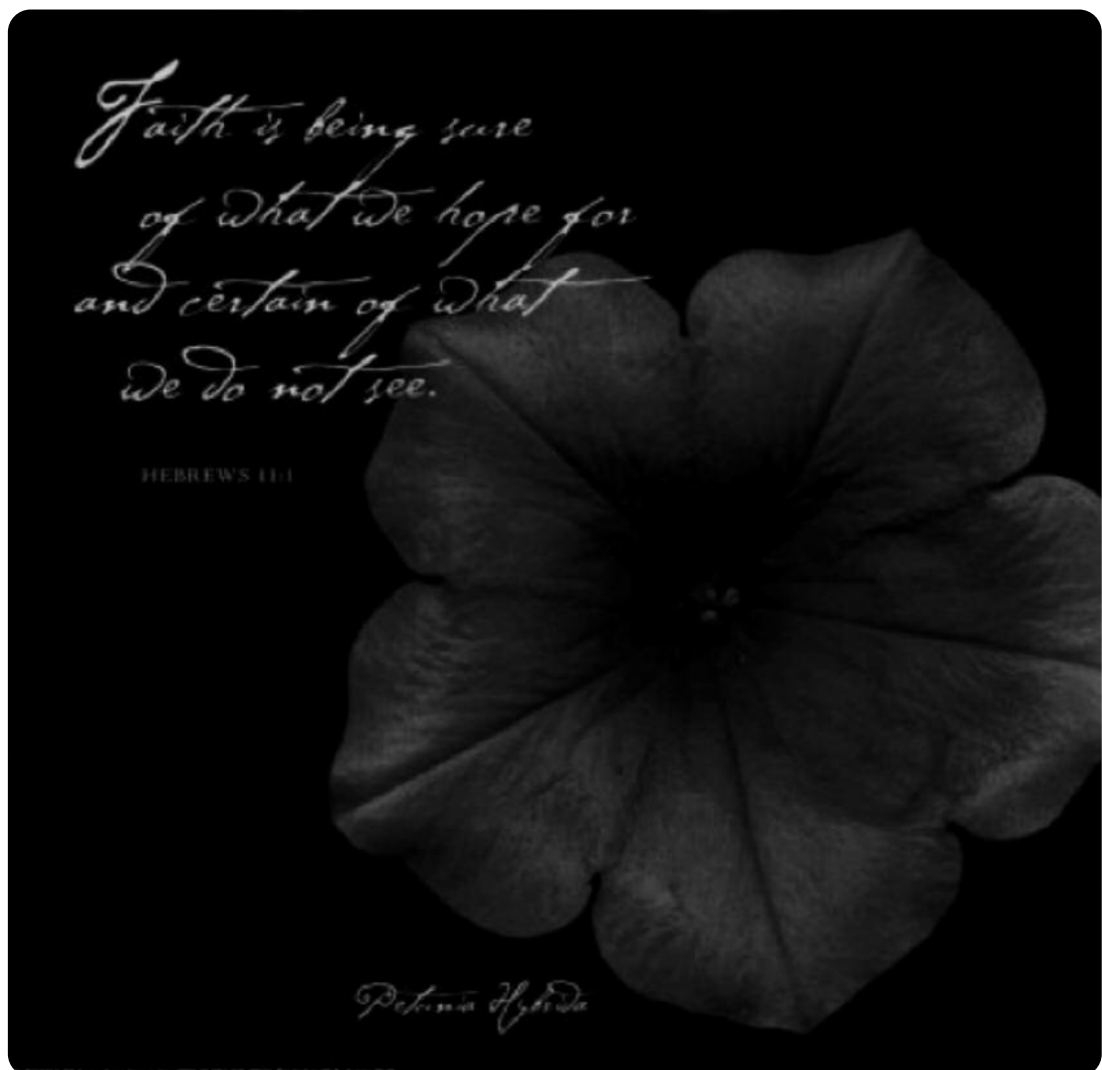
In Transition Year, students were asked to choose from a list of great philosophical questions and explore how mankind has attempted to deal with/answer such questions in both positive and negative ways. From questions like 'Is there a God?' to 'What is the nature and purpose of suffering?', students had to investigate the intention behind their chosen question, the doctrines that some of the world religions provide on the matter, case studies that depict attempts to find solutions, and the students' own individual answers/response to the question. These projects helped students to think deeply about philosophy. Their work was displayed on posters in another of our school's corridors.

Lastly my Fifth Years were asked to research the life and work of an individual/group who changed how we live our lives today. In doing so, they examined the background, education, work, influences and outcomes of their subject matter's life. More significantly, they investigated the depth of their moral vision and the way in which it governed their actions in life. These action projects, which stand across from the Transition Year philosophical explorations in one of our

school corridors, allowed the senior students to examine the complexities of morality when faced with a moral dilemma and also the importance of faith, religious doctrine, morality, law and conscience in attempting to find the best possible solution to a matter.

It has been fantastic to witness the topics that we addressed in religion class come alive in the creativity and hard work of the students' own projects. In doing something practical or activity based, students are challenging the negative 'I can't do' attitude hands on. They may not fully grasp every aspect of whatever concept they are exploring. They may not achieve every target or goal that has been set out at the start of the project work. However, at least they are engaging with their religious learning in a meaningful way.

In doing so, they may even have a chance to learn more about their own relationship with religion, with faith and with God.



Saint Patrick's Day Prayer Service

17 March



"I arise today with the help of God - his strength to hold me, his wisdom to guide me, his eye to look before me, his ear to hear me, his word to speak to me, his shield to protect me."

All: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Leader: We gather here today to remember the life of Saint Patrick, patron saint of our country - today we celebrate his life because he is a person who has influenced us. In our sacred space we place symbols that remind us of the kind of person he was and also remind us of the importance of the Christian faith.

Student one: We place a candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and his light was handed down from generation to generation. Patrick brought this light to Ireland and we must continue to share the light of Christ with others today.

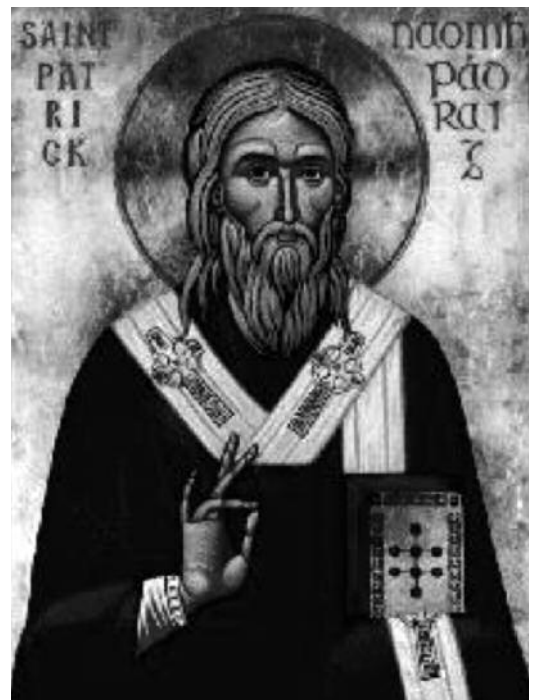
Student two: We place the bible - Patrick lived by the message of the gospel and it helped him in the way he lived his life - it is an important message for Christians throughout the world today.

Student three: We place the shamrock reminding us of the three persons in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Saint Patrick used the shamrock to teach the people of Ireland about their faith.

Student four: We place our own shamrocks with our written prayers about people who help us in our own lives. Let us remember them in our prayers today.

A reading about The life of Patrick

Patrick was born into a Christian family and he was brought up as a Christian. When he was sixteen he was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland. During this time he felt very alone and scared but it was a time when he came to know God. He once wrote “during my captivity my faith grew stronger and I would say as many as a hundred prayers a day and almost as many at night”. Eventually Patrick escaped to France. While he was there he studied to become a priest and bishop and some time later he had a vision. In this vision God called Patrick to return to Ireland and to teach the people about the Christian faith. Patrick did return to Ireland and he continued to live by the message of God and taught the people of Ireland about the importance of their faith. Patrick showed many important qualities in his life. He was an outgoing and enthusiastic person who believed and trusted in God. He was kind and brave and was willing to face whatever challenges life gave to him.

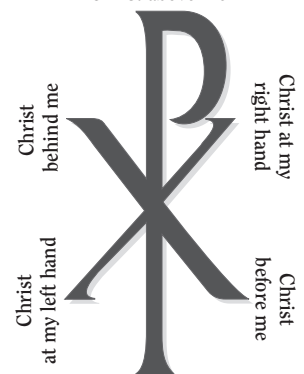


Leader: Let us pause for a moment and think of the times in our lives when we have shown bravery, kindness and respect to others.

*We say together the prayer of Saint Patrick.
Christ be with me, Christ be behind me, Christ be before me,
Christ be on my right and on my left,
Christ be in the heart of every person I meet.
Amen.*

St Patrick's Breastplate

Christ above me



Christ below me

Let us pray:

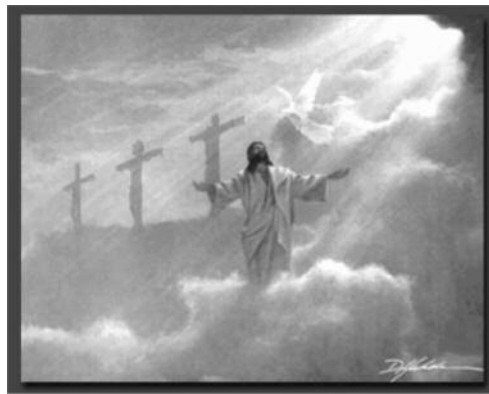
Lord Our God, we thank you for our families and for the people who influence our lives. May they always be blessed. Lord hear us.

We pray for people in prison - especially those who are suffering at this time because of unfair treatment. Lord hear us.

We pray for the church and all those who teach the faith. Lord hear us.
We pray for all Irish people and we especially remember our relatives and friends who live abroad. May God bless them always. Lord hear us.

We pray for the sick. May they have faith in God and in his healing power, Lord hear us.

Our Father.

**Final prayer**

Heavenly Father we ask you to bless us this Saint Patrick's Day. May we continue to experience your presence in the people we admire and in the everyday events of our lives. We make this prayer through the blessing of Our Lord as we say, In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Pentecost Prayer Service



Prayer Space: Students create the space using red and blue cloths, a white candle, a dove made out of aeroboard, wind chimes, photos of people we love and pictures of happy moments. Instrumental music is played. Students attending the service are asked to stand at the prayer room door....

Welcome:



In Baptism and Confirmation we were given the gift of the Holy Spirit to fill us with life and love and to help us grow in faith and understanding, so that we could live out the message of the gospel in our lives. Today as we gather let us bless ourselves with holy water reminding us of these important days in our lives and reminding us that the Holy Spirit is always with us. *(Students bless themselves and take their seats in the prayer room. The sacred space is incensed again, symbolising the Holy Spirit as a cloud and also our prayers rising up to God.)*

Opening Prayer:



Christ came to proclaim the good news to the whole world - with the help of the Holy Spirit he gave us the gift of life and love. He challenged us to share this with other people. Lord through our baptism, we too were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. May we try always to fulfil your mission here on earth. Help us today, as we reflect on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to become more like Christ.
Amen

Readings: Acts 2:1-21

(This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks Be to God**)

Let us now take time to reflect on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (A student comes forward and places the word "knowledge" on the dove. Another student lights a candle and places it in the space. The same is done for each of the gifts. The response is "Come Holy Spirit".

Prayer One: et us pray for the gifts of Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding: help us to learn more about ourselves and the gospel values. Make us wise and help us to make the right decisions. **(Response)**

Prayer Two: Let us pray for the gifts of Wonder, Joy and Reverence: help us to treat others as we ourselves would like to be treated. Help us to experience the wonder of God's Presence in our lives. **(Response)**

Prayer Three: Let us pray for the gift of Courage in our lives: when times get tough, may we never give up easily. **(Response)**

Prayer Four: Let us pray for the gifts of Right Judgment and Peace: may we as people be sources of kindness and peace in the world. Lord teach us to be gentle and patient with those who are weaker than we are. **(Response)**

Prayer Five: Let us pray for the gift of Wonder and Awe: help us to find wonder in the simplest of things, in friendships, through the love of family members, in nature. Teach us to respect one another and the beauty of this earth. **(Response)**

Prayer Six: Let us pray for Justice and Unity in our world: may the Holy Spirit bring peace and unity to all nations. May conflicts be resolved in countries where there is war. **(Response)**

Prayer Seven: Let us pause for a moment and pray for our own intentions. Let us also remember our family members and friends who have died. May they find happiness and peace in their heavenly home. **(Response)**

Final reflection: The apostles waited patiently for the coming of the Spirit who would strengthen and guide them. When the Holy Spirit came they were given new energy to fulfil the mission of Christ here on earth. They became people of love and courage. We too received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. May we always try to live up to the example of Christ in the way we treat others and the world around us. We pray together.

**Father through the Holy Spirit
you give us many gifts and offer
us new life.**

**May the Spirit that lives within
us help us to become more like
Christ your Son. Amen.**

Final Hymn.



Prayer Service for Lent

1. Opening piece of music – ‘The Lord’s my Shepherd’
‘He guides me to living waters.’

2. Lent is a journey towards a **new beginning**. The Lord desires to lead us to living waters. He is our Good Shepherd. Where are we today in our walk with the Lord as we journey thorough this season of Lent? Have our lives become stagnant in some way? Do we lack the joy of the Lord? Let us allow the Lord to lead and guide us. Let us endeavour to shake off the sin that clings to us so easily and dance in harmony with the Lord.



3. **Sacred Scripture:**

Response: **Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your faithful love,
In your great tenderness, wipe away my offences,
Purify me from my sin.

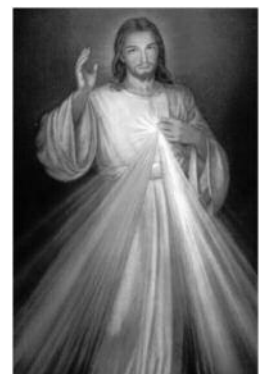
For I am well aware of my offences, my sin is constantly in mind,
Against you, you alone, I have sinned,
I have done what you see to be wrong.

That you may show your saving justice when you pass sentence,
And your victory may appear when you give judgement,
Remember I was born guilty, a sinner from the moment of conception.

But you delight in sincerity of heart,
And in secret you teach me wisdom,
Purify me with hyssop till I am clean,
Wash me till I am whiter than snow.

Let me hear the bones of joy and gladness,
And the bones you have crushed will dance,
Turn away your face from my sins,
And wipe away all my guilt.

God create in me a clean heart; renew within me a resolute spirit,
Do not thrust me away from your presence,
Do not take away from me your spirit of holiness.
Give me back the joy of your salvation,
Sustain in me a generous spirit,
I shall teach the wicked your paths,
And sinners will return to you.



Deliver me from bloodshed, God of my salvation,
And my tongue will acclaim your saving justice,
Lord open my lips, and my lips will speak out your praise.

Sacrifice gives you no pleasure,
Burnt offering you do not desire,
Sacrifice to God is a broken spirit,
A broken, contrite heart you never scorn.

4. **For a New Beginning (John O'Donohue)**

In out-of-the-way places of the heart
Where your thoughts never think to wander
This beginning has been quietly forming
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you
Noticing how you willed yourself on
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the grey promises that sameness whispered
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent
Wondered would you always live like this
Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground
Your eyes young again with energy and dream
A patch of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire
Awaken your spirit to adventure
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

5. **Excerpt from Nelson Mandela's Inaugural Speech**

'Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It consciously gives other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others'.

6. A Prayer for all Gifts

**Jesus giver of all good gifts, on this barefooted journey
We stand in constant need of foot-washing
Carrying your promise in our hearts (Matthew 7.7)
Pilgrims that we are, we plead for help along the way.**

- I. For the gift of vision, that we may see with Heaven's eyes
So that people will be safe in our presence, give us your *vision*.
- II. For the gift of conviction, that we may become the song of the Gospel
Your word made flesh in us, give us your *conviction*.
- III. For the gift of compassion, that we may always be a healing presence
Bending low to wash feet and touch wounds, give us your *compassion*.
- IV. For the gift of poverty, that we may be at home with emptiness
A willing space for God, give us your *poverty*.
- V. For the gift of stability, that we may be able to stay with the Gospel
In times of discouragement, give us your *stability*.
- VI. For the gift of hope, that we may stand on tiptoe with the whole world
Waiting for rebirth, growth, completion, give us your *hope*.
- VII. For the gift of reverence, that we may hold sacred the gift of each person. Ever
proclaiming the value of all creation, give us your *reverence*.

**Finally we pray for the grace to recognise each gift as it is given.
Receive it as a gift and acknowledge it as ours to give away.**

