

Christmas Blessing (to use if you wish)

Principal/ Teacher: We begin our time of prayer and quiet together as we pray the Sign of the Cross, 'In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our lives are very busy as we prepare and wait for Christmas to come. Some of us find it difficult to wait. So now we are going to take some time to stop and to pray. Let us remember that God is present with us as we light the candle (s) of our Advent wreath.

Soon we will have five candles on our wreath, four for advent and the fifth one is for Christmas Day. In lighting the candle (s) may your light, O Lord, gently guide us in the prayer and help us to grow in your love and your care.

Let us listen now to a poem that reminds us of those moments leading up to Jesus being born

(One or two children might read the poem)

Christmas Eve (4th Class GIL)

On Christmas Eve my mother read
The story once again
Of how the little child was born
And of the Three Wise Men

And how by following the Star
They found Him where he lay,
And brought Him gifts; and that is why
We keep our Christmas Day.

And when she read it all, I went
And looked across the snow
And thought of Jesus coming
As He did long ago.

I looked into the East, and saw
A great star blazing bright;
There were three men upon the road



All black against the light.
I thought I heard the angels sing
Away upon the Hill.....
I held my breath....it seemed as if
The whole great world were still.

It seemed to me the little Child
Was being born again....
And very near....and THEN somehow
Was NOW...or NOW was THEN.

(Hymn, second class GIL)

Angels we have heard on high

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains, And the
mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore
on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

<https://app.growinlove.ie/en/user/lesson-resources/183>

Prayers

1. We thank God for the birth of his son, Jesus. Glory to God in the highest
2. We thank God for the angels who brought messages of good news. Glory to God in the highest
3. We thank God for Christmas; a time of giving and receiving, a time of peace and joy. Glory to God in the highest
4. Angel sent by God to guide me,
Be my light and walk beside me;
Be my guardian and protect me;
On the paths of life direct me. Amen

Oíche Chiúin (4th class GIL)

1. Oíche Chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé, Cách 'na suan, dís araon. Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis, Naíon beag gnaoi-gheal ceann-ann-tais caomh; Críost 'na chodladh go séimh. Críost ina chodladh go séimh.
2. Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé, Aoirí ar dtús chuala 'n scéal; Allelúia aingeal ag glaoch. Cantain suairc i ngar is i gcéin.
Críost ár Slánaitheoir Féin. Críost ár Slánaitheoir Féin.
3. Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar. Holder Knab' im lockigen Haar, Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh! Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

<https://vimeo.com/230928142>

Teacher/ Principal: Let us thank God for sending his Son to be our Saviour. God kept the promise he made to the people of Israel long ago and to people of all ages throughout the world. The crib reminds us of that wonderful moment when Jesus came into the world. We ask God to help us to remember the true meaning of Christmas. In quenching this candle, O Lord, we pray that your love will help us each night and day. Guide us with your Spirit, to be people of light and people of love. Amen. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

If each class wanted to end with the following from 5th class Gil, The Huron Carol.

<https://vimeo.com/298584409>

