



# Catholic Schools Week 2011

*Liturgy - 2011*

*Edmund Rice International Heritage Centre*



*Every Morning God shows forth  
God's justice,  
each dawn God does not fail'*  
(Zephaniah 3:5)

Normal Day, Let me be aware of the treasure  
you are. Let me learn from you, love you,  
savour you, bless you, bless you before you  
depart. Let me not pass you by in quest of  
some rare and perfect tomorrow.

*Yes World - A mosaic of Meditations*

'Though we live in a world that dreams of ending.  
that always seems about to give in  
something that will not acknowledge conclusion  
insists that we forever begin.'

**Brendan Kennelly**

## Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, when we speak of Catholic Schools rooted in Jesus Christ we speak about the oneness, the intimacy, and the common bond that is mutually shared. In verse 5 from John 15 Jesus says 'I am the vine and you are the branches'. This verse tells us about our relationship with God. It teaches us about our hope in Jesus Christ and the importance of us bearing fruit. The vine and its branches express a common life and a vital relationship. We gather here in Mount Sion, the final place of rest for Blessed Edmund Rice to launch Catholic Schools week 2011. We offer thanks and praise for our Catholic Schools and ask that they continue to bear bountiful fruit rooted in the values of Jesus Christ.

## Alleluia

### ***Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1***

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang





up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

### **Instrumental: Taize instrumental**

**For our schools we plant seeds that bear witness to their values rooted in Jesus Christ.**

#### **Pot Colours:**

##### **Justice - silver**

We sow seeds of justice that all people will be treated with justice and dignity. We ask that the inequality of our world be continuously challenged and justice advocated for, in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

**All: Lord, let our hands mould the work of Justice.**

##### **Peace -white**

We sow seeds of peace in our hearts, minds and in every Catholic Community. We embrace the non-violent ways of Jesus and contemplate the face of Christ.

**All: Lord, let our mouths speak of your peace.**

##### **Kindness -rose**

We sow seeds of Kindness to celebrate the care and goodness that is evident in Catholic Schools as they tirelessly work to embrace the ethos and value system rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**All: Lord, let us remember to celebrate the extra in an ordinary day.**

##### **Solidarity - Multicoloured**

We sow seeds of solidarity that we may continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our neighbour in every continent. We thank God for the endless stream of young men and women from Catholic schools who travel on Immersion projects to work the developing countries.



**All: Lord, let our feet walk in your footsteps.**

### **Laughter –Yellow**

We sow seeds of laughter to celebrate the happiness and joy that is evident in Catholic schools. Where laughter and song ring through the day and the world is a marvel to behold.

**All: Lord, let our hearts rejoice in your song.**

### **Integrity –Blue**

We sow seeds of Integrity that our schools will continue to have the courage to live out their Christianity identity in the modern world.

**All: Lord, grant us the strength and courage to act on your love.**

### **Learning –Purple**

We sow seeds of learning and wisdom that each student can continue to realise their full human potential. We pray for all members of our school communities as they work to achieve their goals in a context of faith and values rooted in Jesus Christ.

**All: Lord, we celebrate those who seek and sow wisdom.**

### **Faith, Hope and love – Red**

We sow seeds of faith, hope and love in recognition of the fire of faith, hope and love that burns brightly in our school communities. We thank God for all of those who have gone before us and devoted their entire life to the education of the young. We especially remember Blessed Edmund Rice who spent his life enabling and empowering so many to reach their full human potential.

**All: Lord, we give thanks for our Catholic Schools and the many people who have devoted their lives to others.**

### **Prayer of Thanks for Blessed Edmund Rice**

**All:** O God, we thank you for the life of Blessed Edmund Rice.

He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice.

May we follow his example of faith and generosity.

We ask through the intercession of Blessed Edmund Rice for the courage and compassion to live lives of love and service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.





### **Continuing Taize theme**

**ALL:** Our Father

### **Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** God of history, age and youth,  
we have gathered in your presence to listen,  
to share and to celebrate  
the Good News of hope that is in all Catholic schools.  
Give us: humility to learn from each other,  
openness to your gifts,  
courage to embrace renewal.  
May you be our beacon leading us towards our future  
that we may safely cross these days in love and freedom.  
We pray this in the Spirit, through Christ our saviour.

**All:** Amen

### **Final Hymn**



## *Blessed Are*

*Blessed are those who are on the move,  
transforming exodus and flight in energy for a new  
search.*

*From the victims will come the protagonists of  
history.*

*Blessed are those who, forced to wander without  
direction, with wisdom learn and teach the lessons  
of the road.*

*They will be the architects of a new time.*

*Blessed are those who suffer pain, nostalgia and  
loneliness, yet know how to make of every arrival a  
new beginning.*

*They shall act with faith, hope and life.*

*Blessed are those who open borders  
and mix the anthems, flags, races and creeds.  
Without discrimination, they make the world  
everyone's home*

*Blessed the wayfarers of all roads  
in the tears, sweat and the work of their hands.  
They prepare a tomorrow of justice and right.*

*Blessed are those who open the door to pilgrims,  
making solidarity the passport to our common  
homeland.*

*They are constructing a new citizenship.*

*Blessed are those who encourage encounters and  
re-encounters, sowing peace. They will harvest  
flowers and stars in the new heaven and the new  
earth.*

*Blessed are the excluded, without opportunities and without voice.*

*They will be the first guests in the great banquet, where bread will not be lacking on  
anyone's table.*

*Fr. José Alfredo Goncalves, Brazil*

*From Prayer Without Borders, Celebrating Global Wisdom, © 2004, Catholic Relief Services*

