

Blessed Edmund Rice

1762 - 1844



Businessman, Father, Widower, Teacher,
Founder, Brother, Friend of the Poor.
Beatified: 6th October, 1996

The
Seed
will
Grow



Blessed *Edmund Rice*

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.

Grant us the courage and compassion of Blessed Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MASS FOR THE FEAST-DAY OF BLESSED EDMUND RICE, 5TH MAY

[COMMON OF HOLY MEN AND WOMEN, WITH SPECIAL COLLECT AND OTHER OPTIONAL PRAYERS:

PROT. 12/6/96/L: CONGREGATIO DE CULTO DIVINO ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM)]

AS CELEBRATED IN ROME BY CARDINAL CAHAL DALY IN ST PETER'S BASILICA, ROME, MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER 1996, AND BY MEMBERS OF IRISH HIERARCHY, TALLAGHT STADIUM, CO. DUBLIN, 20 OCTOBER 1996]

Opening Hymn

Some Suggestions:

Song of a Young Prophet

The Servant Song

Here I am, Lord

Laudate Omnes Gentes (Taizé)

Entrance Antiphon : The just man will flourish like the palm tree. Planted in the courts of God's house, he will grow great like the cedars of Lebanon.

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit /Amen.

Peace be with you/And also with you.

Penitential Rite

For the times we have failed in love and compassion, we ask your pardon, Lord.

A Thiarna, deán trócaire/ Lord have mercy.

For the times we have failed to show courage in the face of injustice, we ask your pardon, Lord.

A Chríost dean trócaire/ Christ have mercy.

For the times we have failed to forgive the hurts and wrongs done to us, we ask your pardon, Lord.

A Thiarna deán trócaire / Lord have mercy.

Lord, we rejoice in your mercy and forgiveness. Grant us the grace to forgive as we are forgiven, to love as you command us to love. *Amen.*

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Lord, you give us an example of the Gospel lived to perfection in your servant, Blessed Edmund Rice. Help us to follow him by keeping before us the things of heaven amid all the changes of this world. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit...

OR

O God, you raised up Blessed Edmund Rice to serve Christ in those suffering from poverty and injustice: grant, we pray, that following his example, we may be faithful servants of your truth and love.

Through Christ our Lord Jesus Christ...

First Reading: *Isaiah 42:1-2,4*

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice; he will neither waver nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. [*Pause for reflection.*]

This is the Word of the Lord./Thanks be go God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 144: musical setting – Fr Liam Lawton)

Response: The Lord will heal the broken heart; God will seek the lost and find them.

I will bless the Lord all my days,
I will bless the Lord and give God praise.
For the humble heart the Lord will guard;
In the Father's care may you rest from harm.

Response.

When the poor shall cry, they shall be saved.
God will hear our cry, live not in shame.
God will guard your life from sin's distress.
Let us fear the Lord, may God's name be blessed.

Response.

You who live in love shall never die;
you who keep your word need never hide.
For the Lord will seek the righteous soul.
May the peace of God be your life and hope.

Response.

Second Reading: 1 Letter of St. John 7:19-21

We love because God first loved us. If someone says he loves God but hates his brother, he is a liar. For he cannot love God whom he has not seen, if he does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen. The command that Christ has given us is this: whoever loves God must love his brother also.

(Pause for reflection)

This is the Word of the Lord./Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia..

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit.

Alleluia.

Gospel. St. John 15: 8 - 14

The Lord be with you/ And also with you.

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John/ Glory to you, Lord.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.

Remain in my love,

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love,

just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

One can have no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord/

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful [Suggestions]

Brothers and sisters, we are gathered together to celebrate the mystery of our salvation in Jesus Christ. Let us ask God to open for all the world this fountain of life and blessings.

- 1) For the universal Church, as it stands on the threshold of the third Christian Millennium, that it may ever more fully and eagerly embrace its mission to proclaim the Gospel to all the world through the witness of service and love.

We pray to the Lord. /Lord, hear our prayer.

- 2) For all who follow in the footsteps of Blessed Edmund Rice: the Presentation and Christian Brothers, their associates and co-workers, that they may respond with the same courage and generosity to the call of Christ to the marginalised and outcast of our own day.

We pray to the Lord. /Lord, hear our prayer.

- 3) For each of us, called to one discipleship, that the life of Blessed Edmund may encourage and inspire us to love one another as Christ has commanded us.

We pray to the Lord./Lord, hear our prayer

- 4)For the young, to whom Blessed Edmund devoted his life, especially those on the fringes of our educational system, that they may hear Christ's call to grow and bear fruit through the witness and ministry of others.

We pray to the Lord./Lord, hear our prayer.

- 5) For all who suffer disability and illness so that they may find healing through the love and care of others and may the compassion they awaken be a source of renewal in our world.

We pray to the Lord./Lord, hear our prayer.

- 6) For all who suffer oppression and injustice that they may know hope through the witness and courage of others.

We pray to the Lord./Lord, hear our prayer.

- 7) For all the faithful departed, especially for the deceased members of the congregations founded by Blessed Edmund, that the Lord may reward them in the glory of His eternal kingdom.

We pray to the Lord./Lord, hear our prayer.

Father, hear the prayers of your people. Give us what you inspired us to ask you for in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Preparation of Gifts

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, accept the gifts we bring in memory of Blessed Edmund.

May our sharing in this mystery of your love help us to live the example of that love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord/ Amen

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preface

Father, all powerful and ever living God,
We do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.
You renew the Church in every age
by raising up men and women outstanding in holiness,
living witnesses of your unchanging love.
They inspire us by their heroic lives,
and help us by their constant prayers
to be the living sign of your saving power.
We praise you Lord with all the angels and saints in their song of joy:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Eucharistic Prayer (Recited at the Eucharistic Celebration in St. Peter's on
Monday, 7 October 1996)

We bless you, God of holiness. You accompany us with love as we journey through life. Blessed too is your Son, Jesus Christ, who is present among us and whose love gathers us together.

As once he did for his disciples, Christ now opens the scriptures for us and breaks the bread. Great and merciful Father, we ask you:

Send down your Holy Spirit to hallow these gifts of bread and wine that they may become for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the eve of his passion and death while at table
with those he loved,
he took bread and gave you thanks,
he broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said:

Take this, all of you, and eat it.

This is my body which will be given up for you,

When supper was ended he took the cup, again he
gave you thanks,

and handing the cup to his disciples, he said:

Take this, all of you and drink from it;

this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.

It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

A Thiarna is a Dhia or Christ has died, Christ Is risen, Christ will come again.

And so, Father most holy, we celebrate the memory of Christ your Son whom you led through suffering and death on the cross to the glory of the resurrection and a place at your right hand.

Until Jesus our Saviour comes again, we proclaim the work of your love and we offer you the bread of life and the cup of eternal blessing.

Look with favour on the offering of your Church in which we show forth the paschal sacrifice Christ entrusted to us. Through the power of your Spirit of love, include us now and forever among the members of your Son whose body and blood we share.

Lord, perfect your Church in faith and love, together with [Benedict], our Pope, your bishop, with all bishops, priests and deacons, and all those your Son has gained for you.

Open our eyes to the needs of all; inspire us with words and deeds to comfort those who labour and are burdened. Keep our service of others faithful to the example and command of Christ.

Let your Church be a living witness to truth and freedom, to justice and peace, that all may be lifted up by the hope of a world made new.

Be mindful of our brothers and sisters (N and N) who have fallen asleep in the peace of Christ, and all the dead whose faith only you can know.

Lead them to the fullness of the resurrection and gladden them with the light of your face.

When our pilgrimage on earth is complete, welcome us into your heavenly home where we shall dwell with you forever.

There, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, with the Apostles, the martyrs, Saint Patrick, Saint Brigild, St Columba and Blessed Edmund Rice, we shall praise you and give you glory, through Jesus Christ Your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer (in appropriate languages)

Agnus Dei:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion Antiphon: Unless you change and become like little children, says the Lord, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Pity then the Child (Fr Liam Lawton)

Refrain: Pity then the child, whose heart is ever mild,
who wonders at the earth, the sky, the sea.
Tender is the child, whose heart knows no guile,
who'll gaze the face of God eternally.

1. And what shall I call your name, you who wander lost?
On whom shall I place the blame, who loves without a cost?
Your eyes so forgotten, yet you are begotten.
Be a child of God, the child of God, who'll share your silent tears. *Refrain*

2. And where can you run, O child, when feeble hearts will fall?
And who holds the heart's desire, to listen to your call?
Who knows of your hurting? Who quenches your thirsting?
Can the world be so blind, a world so blind, forget the face of God? *Refrain*

Communion Reflection

Beatification Message of Pope John Paul, 6 October 1996

Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice is a shining example of the fruitfulness of the Christian life when, as Saint Paul writes to the Philippians, we “fill our minds with everything that is true, noble, good and pure” (cf Phil. 4:8-9). Here we have an outstanding model of a true lay apostle and a deeply committed religious. The love which he first gave to his young wife and which, after her untimely death, he always showed for his daughter, blossomed into a host of spiritual and corporal works of mercy, as he helped the clergy of his parish meet the pressing needs of his fellow citizens oppressed by poverty and the weight of anti-Catholic legislation.

The Spirit eventually led him to the total consecration of himself and his companions in the Religious Life. Today, his spiritual sons, the Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers, continue his mission: a mission which he himself described in this simple and clear intention:

"Trusting in God's help, I hope to be able to educate these boys to be good Catholics and good citizens".

Who will ever measure all the good that has come from the spiritual insight, warm heart and determined faith of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice? Once more Ireland has given the Church and the world a striking testimony of complete fidelity to Christ. *"Keep doing all the things that you have been taught by himThen the God of peace will be with you."* (cf Phil 4:9)

Prayer after Communion

Lord, may we go forth with compassion and courage in our hearts to work together like Blessed Edmund and his followers for the coming of God's kingdom of justice, love and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Blessing

+ May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit/ Amen.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord/ Thanks be to God.

Prayer for a Favour

O God, you inspired Blessed Edmund Rice
To follow your Son in a life of consecrated service of the poor
and of all in need of a truly Christian education.
Grant through his intercession the petition I now make :

.....

And so hasten the day when Edmund will be declared
a Saint of your Church.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Some suggestions:

Let there be love shared among us

Magnificat (Lourdes or Taizé).

Laudate Omnes Gentes (Taizé)

Ave Maria (Lourdes)

The Beatitudes

Edmund Rice Anthem.