



HOLY CHILD KILLINEY
CO. DUBLIN



Prayers for Lent

Welcome and Introduction from Holy Child School, Killiney, Co Dublin.
Emma Rowley, 6th Year, and Ellie Breslin, 5th Year, Chaplaincy Prefects

Good morning and welcome to Holy Child School, Killiney.

We are sharing our Lenten Reflection with you from our lovely Chapel. Generations of Holy Child students, staff and sisters have gathered here over the past six decades to pray together.

My name is Emma Rowley, and this is Ellie Breslin.

We are the Chaplaincy Prefects, and we are members of the Chaplaincy Team of 17 girls from 1st - 6th Year. Our Chaplaincy Team and our Le Chéile Student Ambassador, Camille Griffin, will lead the prayers this morning.

Holy Child School in Killiney was founded in 1947.

Killiney is one of an international network of Holy Child schools founded by a nineteenth century woman, Cornelia Connelly.

Her deep faith and love of learning led her, and her Holy Child Sisters, to develop schools in which students reach their full potential in every way.

You will notice that some of our girls are in their sports tracksuits. We are in the Junior Hockey finals today, and we wish the girls every success.

Our Reflection this morning is inspired by our own Holy Child crest and motto.

Our crest is in the shape of two interlocking symbols of the blessed Trinity.

The crest has a star-cross in the centre. The star of Bethlehem brings a message of peace and joy. The cross of salvation is a promise of forgiveness and hope.

Our crest is a reflection on the mystery of the incarnation and the promise of redemption- God's love is in the crib and the cross.

Our motto is 'Actions not Words'; we strive to live this as a school community, and allow it to influence our lives.

Today we will use symbols of Lent and Easter to reflect on our Lenten journey. Praying in the name of the blessed Trinity we contemplate the rich meaning associated with salt, oil, water and light.

On our Altar is the healing cross. On Ash Wednesday every girl placed a plaster on the cross, asking God for healing in hearts and minds, in cities and countries.

The 40 days of Lent are a time to change our hearts, a time to embrace 'actions not words' and really commit to being people who work for peace and justice in our homes, our school community and in the world.

We will now hear Anna singing the Lenten Song of the Servant.

Hymn: 'The Servant Song' (R.Gillard)

Sung by Anna McEnri, 2nd Year.

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on the journey, we are sisters on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Call to Prayer:

God calls to us today,
to gather in thanksgiving,
to delight in our sharing
to come filled with hope.

Christ calls to us today,
to share in his mission
to help build the Kingdom
to be a light for the way.

The Spirit calls to us today
to meet the wants of the age
to trust in his guidance
to be companions on the journey.

On this day as we are called-
may the love of God flow through us
may the life of Christ flow through us
may the peace of the Spirit flow through us.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.



Praying with Lenten and Easter symbols:



Salt:

Emily brings forward some salt.

We acknowledge the bitterness and suffering that people are experiencing in their lives.

We reflect that salt is used to cleanse and to heal, to bring flavour to our nourishing food and prevent it from spoiling.

We contemplate the challenge Jesus gives us:

‘You are the salt of the earth’.



Oil:

Ellie places the sacred oils on the table.

Oil gives life to dry skin

Sacred oil gives new life to dry spirits.

Oil protects the body from the sun

Blessed with the sacred oil in Baptism we are protected with God’s spirit.

In ancient times oil was used to anoint kings and prophets.

Today sacred oil is used to anoint newly baptised Christians, and confirm maturing Christians.

The oils are blessed in the Cathedral on Holy Thursday. They are brought to each Parish for use throughout the year.



Water:

Water is now poured by Louisa.

Water is the source of life.

Holy water is a sign of blessing in all aspects of life.

Water is used to cleanse and refresh, to quench our thirst.

Holy water is poured at Baptism showing the new life which is beginning in Christ who will sustain us.

Water is a source of power and energy.

Holy water is a sign of God’s protecting and energising presence.

Water is blessed at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night for use by the Parish community through the year.



Candle:

Cheryl now brings a blessed candle.

Light is essential for health and growth.

The light of Christ guides us as we grow in spirit, mind and body.

As the days lengthen the brighter mornings and evenings give us a sense of hope

The light of Christ is a constant source of comfort and joy in our lives.

Light dispels darkness and fear

The light of Christ shines and guides us at all times.

The Paschal Candle is blessed on Holy Saturday night, and used at special ceremonies and sacraments during the year.

We contemplate the challenge Jesus gives us:

‘You are the light of the world’.

A Reading from St Paul's letter to the Colossians reflecting on the challenge of being people of peace and justice:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. The Word of the Lord,
R/ Thanks be to God.

God counts on us:

God creates

We are called to be stewards of our world.

God gives life

We are called to cherish life

God gives faith

We are called to live this faith

God gives love

We are called to share this love

God gives power

We are called to take the initiative, to get things going

God gives hope,

We are called to give each other reason to hope

God gives peace

We are called to be people of peace

God is the way

We are called to follow His way.



Our Prayers:

God our Father,

You sent your Son Jesus to show how much you love us. In our concern for the happiness of others we pray in faith and trust:

For our families and friends, keep them safe and well in your loving care.

Lord hear us.

For all gathered today, members of the extended Le Chéile family and friends, that the Lord will bless them in abundance.

Lord hear us.

For all God's people, that we may respond to the challenge of Lent, that we may embrace a change of heart and commit to actively building a better world.

Lord hear us.

For our relatives and friends who have died, that they may receive the peace and joy of God's Heavenly Kingdom.

Lord hear us.

For leaders of Church and State, that they will be guided by compassion, truth and justice in everything they undertake.
Lord hear us.

For the people of Ukraine, that the war which is ravaging their country will cease, that leaders will be filled with courage to work for peace and reconciliation.
Lord hear us.

Reflection:

God of all places, and this place:
You promised a new earth where the hungry will feast and the oppressed go free;
Come Lord, build that place among us.

God of all time, and this time:
You promised a new day when the fearful will laugh and the sick find healing;
Come Lord, share that time among us.

God of all people, our God:
Take what we have and what we hope for.
May solidarity be our strength as we build a better world. We offer to share in the work of building your Kingdom, Amen.
Commitment begins in Love, love of God and love of neighbour.
Commitment is nourished by Faith, faith in the message of Jesus, our Saviour
Commitment is energised by Hope, that our actions will make a difference
Commitment is characterised by Courage, giving us strength to keep going
Commitment is lived in Solidarity, sharing and struggling together
Commitment is sustained by Joy, joy in the good news and promises of the Gospel.

Commitment Prayer:

Lord Jesus,
I give you my hands to do your work
I give you my feet to go your way
I give you my eyes to see as you do
I give you my mouth to speak your words
I give you my mind that you may think in me
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me
Above all, I give you my heart that you may love, in me, your Father and all people.
I give you my whole self, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who lives and works and prays in me, Amen.

We pray together:

Blessed be God eternal, watching over all that we do.
Blessed be Jesus Christ our Saviour, companion on our journey.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, constantly renewing our hearts, Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen.

The Servant King (Graham Kendrick)

Sung by Amelia Ryan and Ellie Breslin, Fifth Year.

From Heaven you came helpless babe, entered our world, your glory veiled.
Not to be served but to serve, and give your life that we might live.
This is our God, the Servant King
He calls us now to follow him;
To bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.
So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone him.
Each other's needs to prefer for it is Christ we're serving.

(Chaplaincy Team 1st-6th Year)

Louisa Kearney, Cheryl Li, Emily J. O' Brien, Ellie Conlon
Orla Casey, Anna MacEnri, Catherine Hearne
Poppy Doyle, Rosa Molloy, Isabelle Poveda, Cara Fitzgerald
Eimear Taggart, KeKe Atiyota, Aislinn Nixon
Ellie Breslin, Amelia Ryan, Sophie Jones,
Emma Rowley.