

Missio 2026 Lenten Prayer Service for Schools



Opening Hymn: Play music or a hymn as the pupils enter the sacred space.

Leader: We begin our prayer service with a reminder that Jesus died and rose again for us and so we gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Reader 1: Lent is a time when we pray, do kind things for other people, give up things and give to others, as we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Easter.

Reader 2: For forty days, we accompany Jesus on his journey to Calvary, and we see the mercy he shows towards others, despite his suffering. Just as God shows mercy towards us, like Jesus, we try to show mercy to others.

Reader 3: So, this Lent, we will take our Lenten journey alongside families around the world living in poverty, especially those who are suffering because of climate change.

Leader: Opening prayer: Loving and compassionate God, teach us to show love and mercy to each other. As we begin our journey through Lent, inspire us to be generous and kind. Amen.

(Excerpt from Matthew's Gospel 4:11)

Reader 1: Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader 2: Loving God, we pray for our school family, teachers and friends as we begin this season of Lent. Help us to be generous in our actions.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 3: Caring God, we pray for families who are suffering because of climate change. Through our studies on the environment, help us to support more families and help to build a better world.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 4: Gentle God, we pray for the missions and all those who work for justice all over the world. As we live out our school's Bí Cineálta programme, let us never lose hope for a fair and just world.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

Reader 5: Wonderful God, we pray for one another as we journey through Lent. As we pray, give things up, fundraise and think of others, inspire us to be kind and show mercy in our actions.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

Leader: Closing prayer: Loving God, help us to work together to share what we have so that everyone has what they need. Help us to build a better world where each of us can become the best person we can be. **Amen.**

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

Closing Hymn: Play music or a hymn as the pupils leave the sacred space.

Pray the Rosary during Lent

The Rosary is a special tool to help us pray. The World Mission Rosary reminds us to pray for others around the world. Each decade of the World Mission Rosary represents a different area of the world where missionaries share the Good News of Jesus.

How to Pray the World Mission Rosary

1. Hold the crucifix on your rosary beads and make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Move your fingers to the first bead and pray the Our Father.
3. On each of the next three beads, pray one Hail Mary.
4. Pray the Glory Be on the fourth bead.
5. Now start the decade of the rosary: pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and one Glory Be and move your fingers along the beads as your pray.
6. Pray 5 decades of the rosary using the following World Mission colours.



Africa: The first colour of the World Mission Rosary is green. Let us pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for the people of Africa and all the missionaries working there. Let us pray for peace, that fighting will end. Amen.



The Americas: The second colour is red. Let us pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for the people of the Americas and all the missionaries working there. Let us pray for good health, that the sick may recover. Amen.



Europe: The third colour is white. Let us pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for the people of Europe and all the missionaries working there. Let us pray for those in poverty, that they may be nourished. Amen.



Oceania: The fourth colour is blue. Let us pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for the people of Oceania and all the missionaries working there. Let us pray for lonely Christians, that they may be comforted. Amen.



Asia: The fifth colour is yellow. Let us pray a decade of the World Mission Rosary for the people of Asia and all the missionaries working there. Let us pray for those in power, that they may be filled with hope and love. Amen.

Lent prayer intentions

Use our Lent prayer intentions, and colour in each leaf, as a family everyday from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

ASH WEDNESDAY

1. Pray for people who are hungry.

2. Pray for people who are sick.

3. Pray for lonely people.

4. Thank God for the gift of creation.

5. Pray for people without a safe home.

6. Pray for refugees.

7. Pray for your friends.

8. Pray for your family.

9. Pray for your Church community.

10. Thank God for something that brings you joy.

11. Pray for the government.

12. Pray the 'Glory Be...' today.

13. Pray for your neighbours.

14. Pray for someone you love.

15. Pray for people in places where there is conflict or war.

16. Pray for creation to be cared for.

17. Pray for people in your class at school or your workplace.

18. Pray for a more just and fair world.

19. Pray for people suffering because of climate change.

20. Pray for people without access to safe, clean water.

21. Thank God for your family and friends.

22. Ask a saint to pray for you today.

23. Pray the 'Our Father' today.

24. Pray for people who don't have a job.

25. Pray for your teachers or mentors.

26. Pray for mothers and the people who care for us.

27. Pray for people who are treated badly because of their beliefs.

28. Pray for world leaders.

29. Tell God something you are sorry for.

30. Pray for children who can't go to school.

31. Pray that God will help you make good choices.

32. Pray for people who are poor.

33. Pray for someone who has hurt or upset you.

34. Pray for people in prison.

35. Pray for the Pope.

36. Pray for the elderly.

37. Pray for people affected by flooding.

38. Pray for someone you find difficult.

39. Thank God for your food today.

40. Pray for peace in the world.

41. Pray for Christian unity.

42. Pray for people affected by droughts.

43. Ask Mary to pray for you and say the 'Hail Mary...'

44. Pray for an end to racism and prejudice.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

45. Pray for people who are grieving or sad.

GOOD FRIDAY

46. Pray that you will be close to Jesus today.

HOLY SATURDAY

47. Pray for patience and hope.

EASTER SUNDAY

48. Thank God for the new life that Jesus brings.



On Palm Sunday, we remember how the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus into the city.
What can you do to welcome him into your heart, home and school today?

