

*Feast Day of Blessed Edmund Rice:  
Wednesday, 5 May 2021*



Presentation Brothers  
Congregation Leadership Team

*Message from the Congregation Leadership Team  
Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice, 2021*

Dear Brothers and Friends,

As we approach the Feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice, we are invited to reflect and see the Charism of Edmund with fresh eyes. We do so in the context of a global pandemic as the world struggles to cope with the spread of the virus, deal with death and loss, rely on the hope of vaccines, reach out to countries and those in need, finding new and creative ways of relating and connecting, showing generosity of spirit and risking in order to save lives and care for others, and finding meaning and learnings from this experience. Wherever we find ourselves at this moment, on this journey, a new reality dawns on us, and finding God in this experience will give us hope.

Edmund responded to the crisis of his time by being the 'image and likeness of God to others, namely, young people, the poor, the disadvantaged and marginalised. The most important question for us, then, is what does it mean to be God's image and likeness in this world at this time? To answer this question, we need to turn to God. He gave us the perfect model of what it means to be His image and likeness in the Person of Jesus Christ, God's Word-become-flesh. As we celebrate the life and Charism of Edmund, let us look at the Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer, adapted for during the pandemic, with fresh eyes and renewed spirit.

Attached to this message are the following pages, containing the three-day prayer and reflection prepared by Br Martin and the L.E.A.F Project. It's a wonderful resource for our community and personal reflection in the days leading up to the feast of Blessed Edmund. We recommend highly, the material suggested, in the form of Scripture and reflective text and invite you to really engage as community in celebrating our Founder's feast day.

May Blessed Edmund continue to inspire your way of being Christ-like in the world at this time.

Happy Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice.

Presentation Brothers CLT





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## EDMUND RICE LEADING WITH FAITH IN THE FUTURE



### PRESENCE

As I begin this prayer, God is here. Around me, in my sensations, in my thoughts and deep within me. I pause for a moment and become aware of God's life-giving presence.

### REFLECTION

Edmund Rice on the sunny days and during the stormy times had a profound faith in God's providence.

Some of the key sayings that have come down to us from him attest to this:

*'Providence is our inheritance.'*

*'Be intent on prayer and whatever may happen will turn to our good!'*

*'Have courage, the seed will grow in the children's hearts later on'*

*'If we were only to know the merit and value of going from one street to another, to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than gold or silver.'*

He brought into his first school in New Street, Waterford, the pragmatic approach of the businessman. The relationship between staff and pupils was a mentoring one – like that between the master craftsman and the apprentice. His approach to Christianity was also eminently practical. He would have agreed with the maxim of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism:

***Do all the good you can, by all means you can, in all the ways you can, in all places you can, at all times you can, to all people you can, as long as ever you can.***

His spirituality was thoroughly Catholic – attending Mass, praying before the Blessed Sacrament, reading the Scriptures and the traditional Irish devotions to Mary and to praying the Rosary.

In these elements of prayers and gospel service, he found the strength to live with faith and confidence in difficult times.

May these elements also inspire us as Presentation Family and Presentation School Communities today.



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## EDMUND RICE LEADING WITH FAITH IN THE FUTURE

### SCRIPTURE

#### **MARK 4: 37 – 41. Jesus calms a storm**

A big windstorm blew up. The waves beat on the boat and it quickly began to fill. Jesus, however, was asleep on a cushion in the stern.

They woke him up.

*'Teacher!' they said to him, 'We're going down! Don't you care?'*

*He got up, scolded the wind, and said to the sea, 'Silence! Shut up!'*

*The wind did and there was a flat calm.*

*Then he said to them, 'Why are you scared? Don't you believe yet?'*

*Great fear stole over them. 'Who is this?' they said to each other.*

*Even the wind and the sea do what he says!'*

Reflect on the storms in your own life.

Who has been there for you at these times?

How do faith and community help?

What lessons does Edmund Rice teach us on faith which can help us through these times?

OUR FATHER / HAIL MARY / GLORY BE TO THE FATHER



### CONCLUSION

Blessed Edmund Rice Prayer During the Time of Covid 19.





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**FEAST OF  
BLESSED  
EDMUND RICE**

**Deo gratias!  
Moladh go deo le Dia!**

**Give thanks to God!**



*"Tonight before falling asleep  
think about when we will return to the street.  
When we hug again,  
when all the shopping together will seem like a party.  
Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar, the small talk,  
the photos close to each other.  
We think about when it will be all a memory but normalcy will seem an  
unexpected and beautiful gift.  
We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us.  
Every second will be precious.  
Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter.  
We will go back to laughing together.  
Strength and courage.  
See you soon!"*

#Papafrancesco #restateacasa #pope #popefrancis

***Happy Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice!***