

Richard Challoner School

Tutor Group Prayers

Summer B 2017



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www.richardchalloner.com/spirituality

Venerable Bishop Richard Challoner

During his lifetime and after his death, he was considered not only as a model of every virtue but as a saint. Indeed he was rewarded with the title of “venerable”. We are asked to pray that our Blessed Lord, through the Pope, may reward him further, by raising him to the altars of the Church as a Saint.

Prayer for the Beatification of Bishop Richard Challoner

O God who made your servant Richard,
a true and faithful pastor of your little flock in England,
raise him, we beseech you, to the altars of thy Church,
that we, who have been taught by his word and example
may invoke his name in heaven,
for the return of our country to belief in the Gospel,
and to the unity of all Christians in the one Church of Jesus Christ.
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bishop Richard Challoner
Pray for us

Guidance for use of the Tutor Group Prayer Booklet

Each morning an act of worship should be made. This can be led by yourself or a pupil and can be made up of prayers from this booklet, www.richardchalloner.com/spirituality, or both.

The following pages contain a selection of prayers suitable for collective worship within the Tutor group during morning registration. The prayers have been organised into different weekly themes:

Week One: Feast of Pentecost

Week Two: Our Faith

Week Three: Feast of Corpus Christi

Week Four: Feast of St Peter & St Paul

Week Five: Praise for Creation

Week Six: End of the School Year

Each morning an act of worship should try and include:

1) Invitation - *to mark the entry into prayer, like standing up and making the Sign of the Cross*

2) Clear Theme & Message

3) Balance of speech & silence - *try to vary the delivery of your theme to ensure that it appeals to as many as possible.*

4) Time for Quiet Reflection - *give time for them to take in and reflect on the theme*

5) Prayer – this should be both led and collective - *there should be a prayer which links in the theme, and an act of communal prayer from the diary.*

6) Clear links with Catholic Ethos – *if you are not using one of the themes above then ensure it is in line with the School's Catholic Ethos or the Liturgical Calendar.*

Week One: Feast of Pentecost

Holy Spirit, be with us throughout this day,
Strengthen us in our work; enlighten us in our study,
Make us constantly aware of each other and you,
So that we may live every moment of this day as you would have us do.

(Michael Buckley)

“When the day of Pentecost came they were altogether in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment because each one heard them speaking their own language. Utterly amazed, they asked, “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each one of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism; Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of the world on our own tongues!” Amazed and perplexed they asked each other, “What does this mean?” Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

(From Acts 2: 1 – 13)

“The Ascension of Christ is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It does not represent his removal from earth, but his constant presence everywhere on earth.”

(William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942 – 44)

God our Father,
Renew our spirits by your Holy Spirit.
Bring us closer to you so that we do your work gladly
and do not find loving you a burden but something to be joyful for.
Amen (Benjamin Jenks)

God our Father, this feast day celebrates
the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the first community
of those who really believed that Jesus was risen from the dead.
They received the gifts of knowledge, wisdom and understanding
and the ability to make balanced judgments all enabling them to convey to others
the good news of your overwhelming love and acceptance and forgiveness.
And so we ask you today God to help us be the people that you want us to be
and enable us to fulfil the calling and the mission that you have for each one of us.

Amen (Nicholas Hutchinson)

Week Two: Our Faith

Let nothing disturb you,
nothing frighten you;
all things are passing,
God never changes.
Patient endurance
attains to all things;
who God Possesses
in nothing is wanting;
alone God suffices.

(St Teresa of Avila)

Oh God, you are both the light and the guide of those who put their trust in you. Grant us in all our doubts and uncertainties the grace to ask what you would have us do; that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(William Bright)

Lord, I believe in you; help me when I doubt.
I love you, yet not with a perfect heart as I would like;
I trust in you, yet not with my whole mind.
Accept my faith, my love and my trust in your eternal love for me.

Amen (Malcolm Spencer)

“Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” A week later his disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus appeared and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and My God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

(John 20: 24 – 29)

Forgive us Lord,
when we want proofs for our faith,
and demand absolute certainty
before we will commit ourselves to you.
strengthen our trust in you,
so that we, who have not seen you,
may still believe;
and in believing may be blessed
with the fullness of joy,
now and always.

(Angela Ashwin, based on John 20: 24 – 29)

Week Three: Feast of Corpus Christi

For the feast of Corpus Christi, we recall that Jesus' command was to 'take and eat and drink; do this in memory of me'.

It is because of that command that people have found no better thing to do than to celebrate the Eucharist, the Mass

- for someone who has died; - for the success of an operation;
- on a couples' wedding day; - for a sick person about to die.

Down the ages, people have found no better thing to do than celebrate the Eucharist

- before they were being led to the lions in the arenas of the Roman Empire; - in hiding during
- Reformation times as they faced imprisonment or death; - on the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940 as
- men were bombed and shot around them; - in secrecy in the death camps of Hitler and Stalin.

And we could find today in a congregation at Mass

- people who are giving thanks for a successful outcome to something that they were worried about; - individuals in pain and anger at the suffering others have brought to them;
- people who have questions and search for meaning in their lives; - individuals who trust even though life is difficult for them; - people who are asking forgiveness, or who feel the need around them of others who are searching.

All these have been carrying out Jesus' command to 'take and eat and drink in memory of me'.

(Nicholas Hutchinson)

Merciful Father, through the mystery of your body and blood grant to your Church peace and unity according to your will. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen (James Tolhurst)

Heavenly Father, as we have received your son in Holy Communion, may we live with him as he lives in us. Through the same Christ our Lord,

Amen (James Tolhurst)

"Jesus said to the crowd, 'Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day'".

(Adapted from John 6: 53 – 55)

After landing on the moon on 20th July 1969, it was a few hours before Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, followed by Buzz Aldrin. Aldrin later wrote about something that he did during those few hours:

"There are many thousands of things that God and man have made here on earth, and before I blasted off, I got thinking and wondering what I would choose to take to the moon. So I said: What's your greatest treasure on earth? And I thought: It's Christ's gift of himself. So, shortly after touch down, I opened two plastic packages; one containing bread and the other containing wine. I poured the wine into the chalice which our home church had given me and I read about St John telling us that Jesus had said, 'I am the vine, you are the branches.'

In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon and the very first food eaten there were what Christ chose when he gave himself to be our close friend."

(Buzz Aldrin)

Week Four: Feast of St Peter & St Paul

St Peter and St Paul are linked together in the Roman Catholic Church. Peter, once called Simon, was appointed leader of the apostles by Jesus. But he was often rash and denied Jesus at the passion. Even so, after the resurrection Jesus asked him three times for his love. Paul was a Jew who at first persecuted the Church, but was converted when travelling to Damascus. Both are seen as great protectors of the faith of the church. And we can say that the church is founded on them. St Paul is honoured as patron of public relations and St Peter is patron of fishermen.

(Jude Groden and Chris O'Donnell)

"When Jesus asked whom his disciples thought he was, Peter answered that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus then said to Peter, "Good for you Simon, Son of John! For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my father in heaven. So I tell you Peter: you are a rock and on this foundation I will build my church and not even death will be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven". He then said that what Peter bound on earth would be bound in heaven, and what Peter loosed on earth would be loosed in heaven."

(Adapted from Matthew 16: 13 – 19)

'May the Lord who built the church on Peter's faith bless us with a faith that never stumbles. May the keys of St Peter and the words of Paul lead us to our home in heaven.

Amen (Adapted from the Roman Missal)

God of mercy, we are as Peter;
We lose our nerve
and deny you in times of trial.
Calm our anxiety, heal our cowardice,
take away our shame and make us free.

(A New Zealand Prayer Book)

For those who love God, everything works out for good,
because God has chosen us
to bear the image of Jesus, his Son.
With God on our side,
who can be against us?
Even if we face hard times or are threatened.
God's love is greater still
and nothing can ever separate us from his love.
Through all difficulties
we can never be failures or losers
because of the power of God's love.

(Adapted from St Paul's letter to the Romans, 8: 28 – 39)

Week Five: Praise for Creation

For the earth and all its richness;
For rocks, mountains and islands, signs of your power;
For fruits, nuts and berries, signs of your bounty towards us;
For wind, clouds, stars and galaxies, signs of your infinite mystery;
For birds, fish and all animals that walk on land, signs that you trust us not to abuse earth's creature;
For varieties of language and differences in culture, signs of the wealth of gifts that we share;
For similarities between peoples and our dependence on each other, signs that we are made in your image,
We praise you Lord.
Give us generous eyes, thankful hearts and open hands so that we may praise you in all that we do.

(Angela Ashwin)

Eternal Father, God of all creation, source of all life, may we praise you by our words and our works. Grant that we may be worthy of our place in the creation that you have given us. Through Christ our Lord,

Amen (James Tolhurst)

"Ever since God created the world, His everlasting power and deity – however invisible – have been there for mind to see in all of the things that he has made."

(Adapted from Romans 1: 20)

Lord, our God and king,
Your greatness is seen throughout the earth.
When I gaze at the heavens which your fingers have formed,
and look at the moon and the stars which you have set there,
I realise how small we are in the majesty of your creation.
Yet you treasure us above all that you have made,
and you give us control over all of the works of your hand:
animals both wild and tame,
birds in the air and the creatures of the sea.
Lord, our God and our King,
Your greatness is seen throughout the earth.

(Adapted from Psalm 8)

God our Father,
amid the vastness of space
You treasure mankind and you call each of us by name.
You so love our world
that you sent Jesus, your son, to live among us.
Inspire us each day
to live in wonder and appreciation
of all that is around us,
and may your love,
surround us this day and ever.

Amen (Nicholas Hutchinson)

Week Six: End of the School Year

Loving father,
as we come to the end of another school year, we turn to you in confidence and place any difficult relationships into the healing hands of Jesus, your son.
Enable us to leave behind any pain of the past and any regrets or bitterness, entrusting the past to your mercy, the present to your love and the future to your wisdom.
Help to appreciate more the need to keep a good balance in our lives.
May the holiday be for us a time of rest and recreation to help restore us and recreate us in your image and likeness, as we enjoy more of the love and presence of our families, on whom we ask your blessing.

Amen (Nicholas Hutchinson)

God our father,
We give thanks for all those who have enriched our lives over the past year: at home, at school, in church and in our local communities.
We give thanks father for the gifts, talents and skills that you have given to each on of us.
In giving thanks for what has been on the past, we ask your blessing on our present and on our future.
We pray for wisdom in setting priorities and in making our choices that we may live fully and make our part of the world a better place because of the care and compassion that we will bring to it.

Amen (Nicholas Hutchinson)

May God guard us and keep us in safety and comfort,
in health and in strength,
sending us nothing but good.
May God send down so many blessings
that the day is not long enough for them all.

Amen (Adapted from traditional Chinese blessing)

O God,
protect those whom we love when they are separated from us.
Guide them when they are uncertain,
comfort them when they are lonely or afraid,
and bless them with the warmth of your presence.
Thank you that neither space nor time
can cut us off from the love we have for each other and for you.

(Angela Ashwin)

God our father,
we ask for your blessing on us as we look forward to our summer holiday. May we use the holiday to relax after a busy term. Let us enjoy the time that we will be spending with our families and friends outside school. Keep us and those we care about safe from harm, so that we may return rested and refreshed for the new school year in September.

Amen (Angela Ashwin)