

Richard Challoner School

Tutor Group Prayers

Autumn B 2017



[Twitter: @RC_Chaplaincy](#)

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 All Saints

Week Two: In Remembrance

Week Three: For Those Who Mourn

Week Four: Faith

Week Five: Dedicating Our Day To God

Week Six: The Immaculate Conception

Week Seven: Advent

Week Eight: Advent and Christmas

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.*

Augustine House - St Augustine of Canterbury - Feast Day: 27th May

Prayer to St Augustine of Canterbury:

God our Father, by the preaching of Saint Augustine of Canterbury, you led the people of England to the Gospel. May the fruits of his work continue in your Church. Grant that through his intercession, may the hearts of those who go astray return to the unity of your truth and that we may be of one mind in doing your will. Amen.

Becket House - St Thomas Becket - Feast Day: 29th December

Prayer to St Thomas Becket:

Almighty God, You granted the martyr Thomas the grace to give his life for the cause of justice. By his prayers make us willing to renounce for Christ our life in this world so that we may find it in heaven. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Columba House - St Columba of Iona - Feast Day: 9th June

Prayer to St Columba of Iona:

Let me bless almighty God, whose power extends over sea and land, whose angels watch over all. Let me study sacred books to calm my soul: I pray for peace, kneeling at heaven's gates. Let me do my daily work, gathering seaweed, catching fish, giving food to the poor. Let me say my daily prayers, sometimes chanting, sometimes quiet, always thanking God. Delightful it is to live, on a peaceful isle, serving the King of kings. Amen.

Dunstan House - St Dunstan of Canterbury - Feast Day: 19th May

Prayer to St Dunstan of Canterbury:

O God of truth and beauty, You gave your Bishop Dunstan the skills of music and metal working, and with gifts of administration and reforming zeal. Teach us to see you as the source of all our gifts and talents, and help us to offer them for praise of worship and the spread of the Gospel message. We ask this through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, for now and for ever. Amen.

Fisher House - St John Fisher - Feast Day: 22nd June

Prayer to St John Fisher:

Good Lord, set in thy Church strong and mighty pillars that may suffer and endure great labours, which also shall not fear persecution, neither death, but always suffer with a good will, slanders, shame and all kinds of torments, for the glory and praise of thy holy Name. By this manner, good Lord, the truth of thy Gospel shall be preached throughout the world. Therefore, merciful Lord, exercise thy mercy, show it indeed upon thy Church. Amen.

More House - St Thomas More - Feast Day: 22nd June

Prayer to St Thomas More:

O Lord, give us a mind that is humble, quiet, peaceable, patient and charitable, and a taste of your Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. O Lord, give us a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of you. Take from us all luke warmness in meditation and all dullness in prayer. Give us fervour and delight in thinking of you, your grace, and your tender compassion toward us. Give us, good Lord, the grace to work for the things we pray for. Amen.

Week One: The Feast of All Saints

Blessed be the name of the Lord; Now and for ever.
May all the saints look after us and lead us safely home. May they guide our steps in goodness,
Befriend us in loneliness, Refresh us in weariness, And strengthen us in danger,
We ask this in the name of Jesus, Who is our Way, our Truth, and our Life,
Now and for ever. Amen.

We praise you, O God, And we honour all your holy ones.
We ask the help of those men and women
Who struggled against evil and stood firm,
Who loved one another, Who worked for justice and peace,
Who healed the sick and fed the hungry.
We on earth and they in heaven, Sing one song of praise. We in grace and they in glory
Form one communion in Christ, your Son.
Make us and all those we love, Worthy to be called your saints,
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

How they suffered, yet faith would endure
What the world inflicted, still the soul kept pure,
For love was the power what in their heart did dwell
The firmness of commitment to save them from hell,
They thought not of self but of the spirit so divine
to deliver his message, even tho we acted deaf and blind...

"The glorious company of the apostles praise Thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise Thee.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise Thee.
All Thy saints and elect with one voice do acknowledge Thee,
O Blessed Trinity, one God!"

In times of need we turn for strength
To those who've come before our days
That their unseen presence might
Come to us as guiding rays.

We need the voice of bygone times
In our present plight for peace
May the saints who lived for all
Bless us each in their outreach.

Continue to embrace our world
Hold us in your constant love
Dear holy ones in heaven's sight
Emblazon our hearts from up above.

Remind us in your quiet ways
That we can reach the worthwhile goal
World peace will reign forever on
With kindness shown to one and all!

Week Two: In Remembrance

Do not stand by my grave and weep.
I am not there.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
I am not there, I did not die.

I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.

(Stephen Cummins)

God of all life,
When your people are mourning,
to the memories of happy times.
so that we support but do not weaken.
so that we can hold the future open
Hear our prayers for the recently bereaved

make us patient listeners
make us sensitive carers
Make us good friends,
for when our friends are ready to face it,

Amen (The Iona Community)

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace

Amen (Unknown Source)

We remember, Lord the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death, and the suddenness with which it can be broken. Help us also to remember that on both sides of that division we are surrounded by your love.
Persuade our hearts that when our dear ones die neither we nor they are parted from you.
In you may we find peace and in you be united with them in the body of Christ who has burst the bonds of death and is alive evermore, our saviour and theirs forever and ever.

(Dick Williams)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up your quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

(John McCrae)

Week Three: For Those Who Mourn

Loving Father.

To you the dead do not die and in death our life is changed not ended.

We believe that all that binds us together in love and friendship does not end with death.

Hear our prayers for those close to us who have died.

Hold them safe in your love in your kingdom of light, happiness and peace.

Jesus told us that those who mourn are blessed, because only those who love greatly can mourn.

Bless us this day with the warmth of your love as we mourn those that we have lost.

Amen (Nicholas Hutchinson)

Lord Jesus,

You wept at the death of your friend Lazarus whom you loved.

We pray for our friends in their loss;

Give courage and companionship as they adjust to their situation, and be with them as they grieve.

(Angela Ashwin)

Draw us closer to you Lord, so that we may know

that we are nearer to our loved ones who are with you.

And while you prepare a place for us as you have promised

prepare us also for that happy place that where you are, we may be also
with those that we have loved, forever.

Amen (Nicholas Hutchinson)

What is dying?

The ship sailed away, and I stand watching until it fades on the horizon.

And someone at my side says, 'The ship is gone.' Gone where?

Gone from my sight, that is all; The ship is just as large as when I saw it.

As I see the ship grow smaller and go out of sight, it is just at that moment that there are others in
a different place who say: 'Watch – here the ship comes.'

And other voices will take up the glad shout: 'You have arrived!' and that is what dying is about.

(Based on words by William Penn)

There is a Buddhist story of a young woman whose baby grew sick and died. She was torn apart
by grief and sorrow and asked a Buddhist holy man if her grief and sorrow would ever go away.

"You must bring me a bowl of rice," he said, "but it must be from a house where no-one has ever
suffered the loss of someone they loved and cared for."

So the woman set out, thinking this would be an easy task which would result in her grief and
sorrow no longer dominating her life. In the first house that she visited, she found that a family
member had died two years before. They talked, and each felt a little better as they shared their
experience and learned from one another and supported each other.

In the next house someone had lost a close friend. Again, she and the family found support. And
so it went on from house to house. Eventually the woman returned to the holy man who asked if
she had the bowl of rice for him.

"No," she said. "Every house that I have visited has suffered the loss of someone they have loved
and cared for. What I have discovered is that it is because we love greatly that we experience such
pain and sorrow when loved ones die. Our pain and sorrow may get less as time goes by, but they
never go away. The medicine I have found in visiting other homes is that peace can come from
helping others and sharing their problems."

(Traditional Buddhist Story)

Week Four: Faith

'Now Thomas, one of the twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them, so they told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas 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 the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!". Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me you believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed".

(Adapted from John 20:24 – 29)

Great God, Faith is the powerful bond which links all Christian people.
We praise you for faith and faithfulness in the ages of darkness,
In disappointments and disasters, in hostile societies where faith is called madness.
May this great tree of faith continue to grow, deeply rooted on your word,
And offering to all a living faith for the healing of nations

(Bernard Thorogood)

Thank you for the gift of faith. When I am alone or frightened faith is there.
When my friends shut their eyes or turn their backs, faith is there.
When my human world is in turmoil, faith is there. I cannot buy it. I cannot borrow it.
I need only to acknowledge you and faith is there. Remind me that regardless of what appears, I
can always depend on you because you, God, are faithful.

(Iyanla Vanzant)

A little kid ran across the street runny-nosed, a bit scruffy
tripping over almost. She ran towards a man whose
Arms were open wide to welcome her. 'Give us a swing Jesus,' she said,
and she felt herself lifted high and she saw the street and sky whirling
around her, ablaze with colour like a mixed up rainbow.
She was laughing then – excited, free gasping for breath 'enough' she said
and she felt herself slowing down relaxing, safe as Jesus held her in his arms and smiled...
Unless we become like little children, Unless we risk that joy and abandonment
Unless we run and ask ourselves to be lifted high
We are never going to enter the Kingdom of God.

(The Iona Community)

Make us Lord so that our faith is not in our words but in our lives.
Not in what we say but who we are,
Passing on your love like an infectious laugh:
Not worried, not threatening, just shining
like the sun, like a starry night,
like a lamp on a stand,
light for life - your light for our lives.

(The Iona Community)

Week Five: Dedicating our day to God

For the morning light and the gift of the new day,
We praise you, our heavenly Father;
And with thankful hearts we now entrust ourselves
And those we love into your hands,
Praying that you will help us
Guide us and keep us
In all that lies before us this day
For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Frank Colquhoun)

O God, help me through today
To do nothing to worry those who love me;
To do nothing to let down those who trust me;
To do nothing to hurt those who are close to me
O God, help me through this day
To nothing that might cause other people to do wrong;
Not to discourage anyone who is doing their best;
Not to dampen anyone's enthusiasm or increase anyone's doubts.

(William Barclay)

Be Lord Jesus, a bright flame before me,
Be a guiding star above me,
Be a smooth path below me,
Be a kindly shepherd behind me,
Today, tonight and forever.

(Columba of Iona)

I want to begin this day with thankfulness and continue it with eagerness.
I shall be busy; let me set about things in the spirit of service to you and to my fellows that Jesus knew in the carpenter's shop in Nazareth.
Take the skill that resides in my hands and use it today;
Take the experience that life has given me and use it;
Keep my eyes open and my imagination alert, that I may see how things look to others, especially the unwell, the worried, the overworked.
For your love's sake

Amen (Rita Snowden)

O God, I know that I am going to be very busy today.
Help me not to be so busy that I miss the important things.
Help me not to be so busy to look up and to see a glimpse of beauty in your world.
Help me not to be so busy listening to other voices to hear your voice when you speak to me.
Help me not to be too busy to listen to anyone who is in trouble and to help anyone who is in difficulty.
Help me all through today to remember that I must work my hardest, and also to remember that sometimes I must be still.
This I ask for Jesus sake

Amen (William Barclay)

Week Six: The Immaculate Conception

Hail holy queen, mother of mercy; hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us;
and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary. Pray for us O holy mother of God,
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

(Unknown source)

Lord Jesus, nine months before the day we celebrate as Christmas, your father's message to Mary of Nazareth and the presence of the Holy Spirit, began your human life within her. She formed you, educated you, cared for you. At the foot of the cross Mary witnessed your loving sacrifice for us. You cared so much for her that your dying act was to commend her to the care of the apostle John. May we continually thank the father for our mothers who have formed us, educated us and cared for us.

(Anthony Castle)

"Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child that you will bear! But why am I so favoured that the mother of My Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

(From Luke 1: 42 –45)

Hail Mary, Lady of grace!
God's love is shining in your face.
Guide your children, hear our prayer,
Be always there.
Holy Mary, mother of God,
The child you carried is our Lord.
Keep all families in your care,
Be always there.
Lady of sorrows, upon the hill
You stood with Jesus: stand there still
For our pain is yours to bear
Be always there
Hail, Mary, God's chosen one
Rejoicing with your risen son,
May your joy be ours to share
Be always there.

(Michael Ainscough and Kathryn Reddy)

Oh Mary, gentle one,	Teach us to love your son.
Oh Mary, humble one,	Help us to serve him.
Oh Mary peaceful one,	Help us to know your son.
Oh Mary, hopeful one,	Teach us to trust him.
Oh Mary, grateful one,	Teach us to thank your son.
Oh Mary, joyful one,	Help us to praise him.

(Francesca Leftley)

Week Seven: Advent

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The Virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you". Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God. You will; be with child and give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," asked Mary, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy spirit has come upon you and the power of the Most High will over shadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age – and she who is said to barren is in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible for God". "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be done to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

(Luke 1:26 – 38)

While people watched their sets one night, all seated round the screen,
The angel of the Lord appeared where evening news had been.
'Fear not' said he (for flashing lights had altered the transmission;
This strange celestial visitor had interfered with vision).
'I bring good news of peace on earth for all mankind,' he said;
But crackling sparks zigzagged the screen and every set went dead.
So angry viewers growled and cursed and electricians fumed,
Until as soon as possible normal service was resumed.

(Peter Dainty)

Dear God,
As we begin our preparations for Christmas, help us to remember what Christmas is really about.
As we light our Advent candles help us to think about Jesus as the light of the world. Without him
there would be no Christmas. Make us strong as we go through Advent and help us to think about
Jesus, the Son of God at his birth.

Amen (Unknown Source)

O God our loving father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, so that we share in the
songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men. May the
Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our
beds with grateful thoughts forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake

Amen (Robert Louis Stevenson)

It's Christmastime.
The holly is abundant.
The presents and the food have been bought.
The grandparents are in the spare room.
But what of the meaning of Christmas? "Jesus who??"
Father let us not get carried away with the trappings of Christmas.
Let us remember the birth of your son, our Saviour.
The traditions of Christmas may be fun, but let us not forget the true meaning.
In Jesus' name

Amen (Unknown Source)

Week Eight: Advent & Christmas

If you ever visit the Imperial War Museum, you will see as you enter the World War 1 section, a collection of letters and diaries. They all recount a very unusual Christmas. Both sides of the war were fighting in the trenches. If anyone were brave enough to lift their head above the trenches they would be shot. This had gone on for months and now Christmas had arrived. Then the sound of carols was heard. The German soldiers were singing. The Allies joined in. The men eventually trusted each other, came out of the trenches, played football together, chatted and shared photographs. The power of Christmas was greater than the power of war.

(Unknown Source)

There were shepherds living out in the fields near Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger". Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests".

(Luke 2: 8 – 14)

Sweet child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Pour into the hearts of men the peace which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give them. Help them to know one another better and to live as brothers, children of the same Father. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them together in your love and give us all your heavenly peace.

Pope John XXIII

The new born king arrived at twelve o'clock midnight precisely (Middle Eastern Time), a rather feeble 4lbs 5oz (but what would you expect from an undernourished peasant girl?) No district nurse was present; there was no delivery bed, no injections, no gas and air, no shiny sterile instruments, no hints on correct breathing, no attendant doctors; only soiled straw and cobwebs, and staring animals and a farmyard smell and awkward Josephs shaking hand, holding a shivery lamp for the innkeepers wife who was busy with her rough, well-meaning fingers. So the new king entered his kingdom to the prickling of hay and the tight warmth of the long swathing bandage. There was no dignity about it, except the dignity that attends every human birth; no mystery except the normal mystery of a new life; no wonder except the wonder of excited shepherds with half mad stories of angelic visions. For God stooped low, and will stoop lower, even to the oozy bottom of the human ocean, to raise the sunken treasure of lost souls.

Peter Dainty

Though proud men ruled the world,
enthroned in pomp and power,
the plan of God unfurled
in a fragile villiage flower,
an unsophisticated girl,
who dared to say "Yes"
to God's strange will.
Those rich men did not know,
wrapped in cocoons of gold,
that where the raw winds blow,
God's message was being told
to poor men watching through the night,
bedazzled by mysterious light.
And those with earthbound eyes
could never understand
that God accounted wise
men from a distant land,
who searched the heavens for signs of grace
and chased a star to see God's face.
The great ones have their day
and strut this worldly stage,
while God prepares a play
fit for a different age
when wooden cross and stable birth
empower the meek to rule the earth.

(Peter Dainty)

