

## **EDMUND RICE**

### **A SERVICE OF READINGS AND REFLECTIONS**

#### **Introduction**

**First Reading :**      *A reading form the Gospel according to St. Matthew.*

Jesus made a tour through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses.

And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

**Petitions :**      The life of Edmund Rice is the record of his progression from being an exemplary Catholic layman to the stature of a heroic religious founder. Today we honour this man, who in his daily life lived the message of the Gospel, and brought Christ to the people who were his concern.

Let us pray, therefore, that we too may live out that same message of Christ and thus show ourselves to be true followers of Edmund Rice.

- \* We pray that Christ may always live in our hearts and be visible in our loving concern for all the people of God.

Lord hear us: Lord graciously hear us.

- \* We pray that we may be penetrated with the spirit of Edmund Rice and renewed in the same great faith and all-embracing love.

Lord hear us :...

- \* We pray all Brothers may bring Christ to the world and extend the kingdom of God on earth by their own Christ-like loving.

Lord hear us :...

- \* We pray that all who are sick may be comforted and that they may see in their sufferings a means of extending God's kingdom.

Lord hear us :...

- \* We pray that our parents, relations and friends living and dead, may be rewarded by God for their many sacrifices on our behalf.

Lord hear us :...

- \* We pray that we may all show a filial love for our Blessed Mother whose great act of faith, shown in her complete response to God's will, gave to all people the Saviour of the world.

Lord hear us :...

**Second Reading:**      *An extract form the biography of Edmund Rice, 'A Tree is Planted', by Brother Columba Normoyle.*

...Physical and intellectual characteristics, however impressive, could not have been sufficient of themselves to explain the influence he exerted over others. It was his spirituality that attracted them: 'His name was a household word among the people as a saintly man raised up by God for the good of his people and to do a great work.' He appeared to all as one sent by God to fulfil a special mission and that mission was that he came to his people and to the Church at a time when they were in need of such a man... and his fame soon spread outside the limits of the city.'





**Third Reading :**     *Psalm 112*

This psalm has been chosen for its relevance to the life and work of Edmund Rice. Psalm 112 outlines quite clearly the virtues that emanate from one whose only God is the Lord. Let us ensure that God is indeed the Rock and Foundation of our lives as Edmund Rice would have us do.

**All:**                Companions, emboldened by his example, came to join him;  
by doing, he taught them.

Happy those who fear Yahweh and joyfully keep God's commandments!  
Children of such as these will be powers on earth; each generation of the upright will be blessed.

There will be riches and wealth for their families, and their righteousness stands firm forever. Even in the darkness, light dawns for the upright, for the merciful, compassionate, and righteous.

These people, good of heart, lend generously, handling their affairs honestly. Kept safe by virtue, they are always steadfast, and leave an everlasting memory behind them.

With a trusting heart and confidence in Yahweh, they need never fear evil news. Steadfast in heart they overcome their fears; in the end they will triumph over their enemies.

Quick to be generous, they give to the poor; their righteousness stands firm forever. People such as these will always be honoured.

Glory to the Father...

**All:**                Companions, emboldened by his example, came to join him;  
by doing, he taught them.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Reflection:**                *The words of Venerable Edmund Rice.*

"Cast all your cares into the arms of Divine Providence."

"Have courage, the good seed will grow up in the Children's hearts later on."

"The world and everything in it is continually changing..."

Perfect happiness is not to be expected but in another world."

"Be intent on prayer and whatever may happen will turn to our good."

"One thing you may be sure of that whilst you work for God whether you succeed or not he will amply reward you."

"If you only acquire this virtue (humility) it will always guide you safely let your paths be ever so cross or difficult."

"But let us do ever so little for God, we will be sure he will never forget it nor let it pass unrewarded."

**Concluding Prayer:**

Today, Father, we honour Venerable Edmund Rice, who in his daily life, lived the message of the Gospel, and brought your Son to the people who were his concern. We pray, therefore, that we too may live out the same message of Christ, your Son, and thus show ourselves to be true sons and daughters of Edmund Rice.