



St Mary and St Paul's
Reflection: *Luminous Eyes*

OPENING RESPONSES

God of time and God of eternity

For you we wait.

God of outer space and God closer than we can imagine

For you we wait

God of the roaring noise of the world and God of silence

For you we wait.

In our homes, classrooms, playrooms, factories, offices and fields

For you we wait

In our busyness and in our stillness

For you we wait

With our hopes and with our fears

For you we wait

In this place and at this time

For you we wait



John 13:34-35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.



*Blessed is the man who has
acquired a luminous eye with
which he will see how much
the angels stand in awe of
Thee, O Lord, and how
audacious is man.*

St. Ephrem the Syrian



As you hold your window, cast your mind back to your summer.

Think of a 'wow' moment; this could be with family or friends, in nature or through music; in the ordinary of the every day.

Sit with it for a moment. Where did you sense meaning, purpose, connection?

In your mind's eye, look back beyond the summer to your last school year.

Is there a particular 'wow' moment where you sensed God's presence?



As we hold our mirrors we turn our attention inwards.

We hold before God how we are feeling in this moment: the things which we are excited about along with our fears.

What can we give thanks to God for?

We hold before God the ‘ow’ moments; the pains that we carry with us today, internally. We hand them to the God who knows them completely.



As we hold our doors let us think about the ways in which we can serve God and others in this new school year.

Is there an act of radical kindness that we can show to another person?

How can we better love the people in our lives who we find difficult to love?

What one thing might we implement, that we haven't done before, to share God's love with the children in our care?



PRAYERS

Loving God, Our creator, our saviour, our companion; bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake today. Refresh our souls and renew our spirits as we embrace the beautiful ministry you have called us to. We welcome those who are new to this community and ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them.

Amen

Lord, make our hearts ready as we prepare for the return of children to this school. May they return with open hearts and minds, ready to learn.

Amen

We thank you that St Mary and St Paul's is a place of safety and solace for so many children and their families. Give us strength and wisdom as we serve this community in all of its complexity. May we see lives changed forever by Your love lived out in us.

Amen

We give to you, Lord Jesus, our worries and our doubts, our fears and our failings, and ask that you renew us and equip us to use our gifts to do Your will.

Amen.



CONCLUSION

We say together:

Help us to see Christ
In others,
Help us to receive Christ
From others,
Help us to share, Christ
With others,
Help us to be Christ
for others,
Help us to bring Christ
To others.
Help us to see that
In him we live and move
And have our being,
That we dwell in him,
And he dwells in us.



BLESSING

Lord God, Your Spirit of wisdom
fills the earth and teaches us your
ways.

Grant that we may follow Jesus in
all we do: the way, the truth, and
the life.

And may the blessing of God
Almighty, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit, be with you and remain with
you always.

Amen

