



AUTUMN DAYS

**IDEAS AND OUTLINES FOR CLASS
PRAYERS IN THE AUTUMN**



ST MARYS CF10

AUTUMN DAYS

**IDEAS AND OUTLINES FOR CLASS
PRAYERS IN THE AUTUMN**

ST MARYS CF10

Copyright ©Dean Atkins 2021

Contents

Birthday Blessings.....	4
The Cross.....	6
Glory to God!.....	8
‘Autumn Days.....	10
A Very Precious Gift.....	12
Our Lady of the Rosary.....	14
‘A Colourful World.....	16
What we shall be like in years to come!’.....	18
The People that Walked in Darkness.....	21
Christ the King.....	24

For more information about other resources
check out our website wee.stmaryscf10.com

Birthday Blessings

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children exploring the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th), and our own birthdays too!

Prepare a small table with a colourful cloth.

Place an open bible, a picture or icon of Mary and Jesus, and a lit candle – possibly a birthday candle in a small cake.

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

Birthdays bring blessings.
Parties and presents,
friends and fun,
games and delicious food to eat.

Each year, as we grow up, as we get older,
our knowledge of the world grows too.
Our eyes have widened.
We can think back over the last year
to all the things we have experienced
and we can look forward with dreams for the future.

None of us can remember the day we were born.
We were so small, so little,
and all we did was cry
and be held.

Today (*or this week*), we celebrate Mary's birthday.
Mary was chosen by God to a special role.
To be the mother of Jesus.
God chose her even before she was born.

Imagine then, how Mary felt, each year on Jesus' birthday,
as she watched her child
grow up, grow older.
She loved him so much.

God loves you so much.

He loves to watch you enjoy life.
He loves to see you grow up, grow older,
and enjoy the world he has made.

Like Mary, he knew us even before we were born.
He has been with us all along the way.
He is with us today.
He will be with us in the days and years to come.

So, let's sit as still as possible now, and close our eyes,
Think of the past, think of the future,
but above all to know that Jesus is with us now,
right now.

Prayer

Thank you for our birthdays,
and for all the wonderful things in life.
Thank you for Mary's birthday
and for choosing her to be the mother of Jesus
Who is always with us, today and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.

You may want to blow out the birthday candle now – and not make a wish, but ask the children to think of someone or something to pray for, as they blow out the candle together

The Cross

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children exploring the Triumph of the Holy Cross, a feast celebrated on September 14th although it's suitable, of course, for use at any time.

Prepare a small table with a white or gold cloth.
Place an open bible, a lit candle and a cross

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

When have you felt at your strongest?
When have you felt at your cleverest?
When have you felt as your wisest?
When have you felt at your angriest?
What have you felt at your calmest?
When have you felt at your weakest?

This is a cross.
Jesus died on a cross.
When people looked at Jesus on the cross,
they thought he was at his weakest.
They thought that this was the end of him.

But God has a very different way at looking at the world.
God has a very different way of working in the world.

Sometimes, God takes us by surprise.

Today, we think about the power of God.
The cross is a sign of how powerful and mighty God's love is.

Love is the most powerful thing in the world.
It doesn't matter how rich we are or want to be,
It doesn't matter how quick or clever we are.
It doesn't matter how physically strong we are.

If we love God and love one another
Then we can change the world.

Jesus changed the world when he died on the cross,
His love and his life were so powerful
that three days later he rose from the dead
to live for ever.

Not even death could hold Jesus down.

So, if you're ever feeling lost or alone
or just a bit out of sorts,
think about how much God loves you
and how powerful that love is.

Prayer

God our Father,
help us to be strong in love
so that trusting in the cross of Jesus
we can help to change the world
and enjoy your kingdom for ever.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.

Glory to God!

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children exploring the angels. Suitable for use at any time but particularly for the Feast of St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael and all the angels (September 29) or for Christmas time.

Prepare a small table with a white or gold cloth.

Place an open bible, a lit candle and three signs with the words, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael written on them. (If you have time prepare them with colour and decoration). Also, if you have one, an icon or painting of one of angels.

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

God made so many lovely things. He made the earth and everything in it. He made the sky and the stars and the whole universe. He made more than we can ever see. God loves his world. He loves his people. God loves to be part of everything he has made.

(Can you think of some of the lovely things God has made?)

God also made everything in heaven. The angels live in heaven. They are beautiful, like God is beautiful. They love to worship God, for ever and always. The angels bring the life of heaven to God's people on earth.

We know the names of some of the angels. *(Show them each name sign as you mention the names)* There is Michael. And Gabriel. And Raphael. We know some things about them. Michael fought in a great war in heaven against the devil. Gabriel gave good news to Mary, news that God had chosen her to be the mother of Jesus. Raphael is known as a healer and a helper in times of trouble.

There are many other angels, more than we can ever count, more than we can know. Even though we can't see them, we know they are there. Even though we don't know their names *(as you say this, turn the name signs around so that the children see a blank card)* they are our friends. Even when Heaven seems so very far away, we join with the angels in heaven when we sing to God.

Let's listen to a story about angels. It happened one dark night, when they sang to God, when the sky lit up with their love. They had a special message. They had good news. Listen very carefully.

Nearby there were shepherds out in the fields. They were watching their sheep throughout the night. Suddenly they saw an angel of God, and the brightness and the greatness of God shone around them. The shepherds were terrified but the angel said. 'Do not be afraid. I am bringing you great news which will make everyone happy. Today in the city the Lord has been born. This is the sign: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding trough.' Then there were many, many angels, singing to God: 'Glory to God who is high in heaven, and peace on earth for God's People.' When the angels left, the shepherds said, 'Let's go straightaway and see what's happened, let's see this thing that God has told us about.' *(Luke 2:8-15)*

Prayer

God our Father,
you guide angels in heaven and people on earth.
May all the angels in heaven watch over us and keep us safe from harm;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

You may also, if appropriate, want the children to say together the Sanctus from the Eucharist:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

‘Autumn Days

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children to appreciate the changing of the seasons (perhaps suitable for Harvest time) and the beauty of the world. Even though the world changes, God’s love never changes..

Prepare a table with a cloth, a candle, open bible and a bowl of outdoor Autumn items such as leaves, pine cones, berries, etc

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

The world is changing,
the world is always changing,
as we move through the beauty of the seasons.

There is Spring, when the world begins to grow again,
and plants emerge from their winter sleep,
and animals who had been deeply sleeping emerge from their hiding places.
Remember the fun of the summer,
with blue skies and the high sun,
and happy birds.

(Take the Autumn bowl in your hand)

And now we’re into Autumn,
when the world begins to rest,
when the days become shorter
and the nights slowly draw in,
drawing us closer to winter.

There is so much beauty in each of the seasons.
The world is rich with colour.

God cares for the whole of his creation.
He knows and loves every part of everything he has made.

Jesus said that ‘Even if a sparrow falls to the ground and dies,
God sees it, but remember you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.’.

So when we look around us at the beauty of the world,
feel the colder breeze upon our face,
smell the changing seasons,
see the colour of the trees bursting with orange and brown and gold,
we can know that we are part of this creation that God has made,
God loves his creation so much,
God loves us so much.

His creation changes through the seasons.
But his love never changes.

Prayer

Lord God,
Thank you for the beautiful world you have made,
for the changing seasons,
and for the colours of Autumn.
Help us to know that we are part of everything you made
And you love us so much.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

A Very Precious Gift

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children to appreciate the gift of water (perhaps suitable for Harvest time) and to think about how Jesus is living water.

Prepare a table with a blue cloth, a candle, open bible and a glass or jug of water (and perhaps beakers or cups for the children to drink)

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

Today we think about a very precious gift indeed.
(Pick up the water from the table and show it to the children).

Without this, the plants and trees would wither and die,
and there would be no fish, no sea, no rivers, no underground streams.

Without this precious gift animals would die.

Without this precious gift we would die.

Water is so very important indeed. It is such a precious gift.

Can you think of some of the things we use water for?

Have you ever been really, really thirsty, and did you drink a glass of cold icy water?

Or have you splashed your face with lovely, cool water on a hot summer's day?

Or have you paddled in a stream, or swum in the sea, or stood in the rain or splashed in a puddle?

Have you huddled from a thunderstorm when the rain hammered down or walked in the early morning dew on the grass?

Water is lovely. It is a very precious gift. The world needs water to live. We need water to live.

Jesus knew how important water is.
He said that he was like water,
and he said that when we love him
it's like having streams of living water bubbling up inside us. *(John 7:38 and John 4:1-38).*

Just as we need water to live
so we need Jesus to live.

Next time you think about the precious gift of water,
remember how precious Jesus is.
Next time you think about how lovely water is,
remember how lovely Jesus is, too.

God gives us everything we need.
But even if we drink this water now we will get thirsty later
and will need to have another drink.

Jesus is always with us.
He never leaves us.
He is so close to us.
He gives us life and loves us all.

If appropriate, you may want the children to take a drink of water and think how lovely and precious it is. You may also want to talk about how some people in the world either don't have water or don't have access to clean water.

Prayer

God our Father,
thank you for your gift of water
which gives life to all living things.
But thank you, most of all, for Jesus,
who gives us life
and loves us all.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Our Lady of the Rosary

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children exploring the rosary as something which many people use to pray and to meditate on the events of Jesus and Mary in the Bible. The Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary is on October 7th

Prepare a small table with a white or gold cloth.
Place an open bible, a lit candle and a (large) rosary.

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

Today we are going to think about a special way to pray,
and of a special way to grow closer to Jesus.

The special way is called the Rosary. *(Show them the rosary)*
The Rosary is something we can touch and hold and use.

Each rosary is very different.
Some have wooden beads.
Some have plastic beads.
Some are colourful, like a rainbow.
Others are more plain in colour.
Some are very expensive.
Some cost only a few pence.
But each one is beautiful.

Can you see that that the rosary is made up of many beads?
How many beads can you count?
Each bead has a special prayer for us to say
as we hold it between our fingers.

(You may want to hand the rosary around for the children to hold)

Can you see the special way the beads are arranged?
There are five groups of ten beads
arranged in a big circle.

Each group of beads helps us think about a story of Jesus and Mary in the Bible.
Stories like the time Jesus was born,

or when Jesus and Mary went to a wedding together,
and Jesus turned water into wine.
Sad stories of when Jesus died on the cross.
Happy stories like when he rose from the dead.

Throughout his life
Mary was never far away from Jesus.

We want to love Jesus,
just like Mary loves Jesus.

We want to hear all about the things that Jesus did
and treasure them in our hearts,
just like Mary did.

Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for Mary
who gave birth to Jesus
She loved him so much.
Help us to love Jesus too.
For ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

‘A Colourful World

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children suitable for the feast of St Luke the Evangelist (October 18) exploring the beauty of writing and painting.

It is based on the legend of the icon of Our Lady of Czestochowska Legend has it that St Luke painted the first icon of Mary from a cypress table top from the House of the Holy Family. The original icon, now in Czestochowska Poland, was damaged in 1430 and has been painted over.

Prepare a small table. Place an open bible, a lit candle, and an icon of Mary and Jesus (perhaps Our Lady of Czestochowska)

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

Today we are thinking about a very special person indeed!

Today, we are thinking about a friend of Jesus called St Luke.
Luke wrote two special books in the Bible.

(Open the bible carefully—and lovingly—and show them the title page of The Gospel according to Luke)

His first book was all about the life of Jesus.
His second book was all about the life of Jesus’ friends after he returned to heaven.
His books are full of colour, they are full of love.
St Luke was a very clever writer.
He was a very beautiful writer.
His books tell the story of God’s love,
especially God’s love for people who are poor or in need.
They help us to see what heaven is like.

There is also a legend that St Luke painted the first ever icon of Mary and Jesus.
(Show them the icon)

An icon is a special picture, painted in a special way.
When we look at an icon, it helps us to see what heaven is like.
Can you see the rich colours in this icon?
Gold and green and deep red?
Can you see the fine detail? The dark shadows and the brilliant light?

Writing and painting are two lovely ways of sharing beautiful things.

In school, we do lots of writing and reading, drawing and painting.
Perhaps, one day,
some of you will grow up to be famous writers or wonderful painters.
Or maybe some of you really struggle to write or read
and you really have to put a lot of hard work into it.
But every little piece of work we do can be wonderful
if we are doing our very best.
Remember, we all have different gifts.

We can all appreciate lovely stories and beautiful paintings.
After all, a writer needs someone to listen to his stories.
A painter needs someone to look at his pictures.
So it doesn't matter whether or not we are great writers or talented painters
because we can appreciate the beauty they bring to our lives.

So, today, as we think about St Luke,
let's thank God for all the lovely stories in the world
and all the beautiful paintings,
especially all the stories and colourful paintings of Jesus.

Prayer

God our Father,
the world is full of books and stories,
paintings and pictures.
Today we thank you for the lovely stories written by St Luke.
Today we thank you for the colourful way
in which he tells us all about Jesus, your Son. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

What we shall be like in years to come!

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children exploring what it means to be a saint for Jesus. Suitable for use at any time but particularly for All Saints (November 1)

Prepare a small table with a white or gold cloth.

Place an open bible, a lit candle and an icon of a saint or saints.

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

I wonder how many of you have big plans for what you want to be when you grow up.

I wonder if anyone would like to tell us their plans?

It's exciting to think about what we want to be.

It's exciting to think about the future.

And to imagine all the exciting things we can do and be!

This is what one friend of Jesus wrote about what God wants us to be like in years to come.
He starts with 'now' and then talks about the 'future'.

Listen very carefully.

Read the following slowly and clearly.

'Think about all the love that God has given us:

he has let us be called God's children;

and that is what we are!

My dear friends, we are already the children of God

but what we shall be like in years to come has not yet been shown to us.

All we know is this: when our future is known we shall be like God

because we shall see God as he really is.

Everyone who hopes for this must try to be like Christ.

(1 John 3:1-3)

Ask the children to look around the room at all their friends in the class. And then ask them to get themselves very still and comfortable. Ask them to close their eyes.

Meditation

Think about all the different people in our class.
Can you picture them in your mind now?
Boys and girls,
with different colour skin and different colour eyes.
Some are tall and some are short and some are in between.
Some have brown hair or black hair or blonde hair.
Some are quite quiet;
some never seem to stop talking!
Some with a funny laugh;
some who make us laugh.
We are all so different, we are all so special.
Every one of us is loved by God.
God wants every one of us to be close to him,
and to know him as our Father.

Now imagine all our friends in the class in ten...or twenty...or thirty year's time!
Imagine them all grown up!
What are they like?
What are they doing?
It's difficult to imagine, isn't it?

Jesus' friend said that we don't know what we will be like in years to come
but what we DO know is that we are loved very much by God.
And he will go on loving us.
He wants us to be more and more like Jesus:
not to LOOK like Jesus, (we don't REALLY know what Jesus looked like anyway!)
but to BE like Jesus:
to be loving and kind like Jesus,
to help others like Jesus,
to love God like Jesus,
to listen to God like Jesus
to live our lives for God like Jesus

Imagine what the world could be like in years to come
if everyone was like this!
What a lovely place it would be!

Ask the children to open their eyes. Depending on time and circumstances you may want to ask them how they feel, or get them to talk briefly about what they have imagined.

Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for Jesus
who has shown us how to live,
and for all the people who have ever lived who have been like Jesus.
Help us to know how much you love us,
now and for ever.
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

The People that Walked in Darkness

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children exploring the birth of Jesus as light in the darkness. Suitable for use during any time in Advent but especially around December 21st

Prepare a small table with a purple cloth.

Place an open bible, a lit candle and a figure of Jesus from your nativity scene.

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

When did you notice the days growing shorter?
Have you noticed how much darker it is when you get up in the morning for school?
And how much darker it is as you walk home?
Does anyone know the shortest day of the year?
The day when there is least light of all?
It's December 21st.
Christmas, for us, really does fall at the darkest time of the year.
At the darkest time of the year,
when the days are really short,
we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
He lights up the darkness.

This is what one special person named Isaiah said many years before Jesus was born.
Listen very carefully. Listen to every word.

Read it slowly and clearly so that the children can imagine

'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.
On those who lived in a land as dark as death
a light has dawned.
For a child has been born to us,
a son has been given to us
He will rule over all.
His title will be: 'Wonderful Judge, Mighty Hero, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.'
(Isaiah 9: 2,6)

Ask the children to get themselves very still and comfortable. Ask them to close their eyes.

Meditation

Think of the darkest night.

There are no street lights, no house lights,
no torches or flames.

Just darkness.

It's so dark that when you hold out your hand in front of your face it can't be seen.

It's so dark that you're afraid to walk around in case you bump into something or someone.

All your other senses are working harder and harder.

You ears are listening for noises

.You are reaching out to touch.

You sniff the air for signs of what may be around you.

You can even taste the air on your tongue.

There is darkness.

Just darkness.

If you listen hard enough you will hear a distant song.

It is beautiful, it is like no other song or sound you have ever heard before.

It is a song from heaven.

It is like an angel's voice.

'Glory to God and peace on earth.'

And then the sky begins slowly, very slowly at first, so slowly that you hardly notice it,
to get lighter and lighter, brighter and brighter.

It is like the day dawning.

Like the sun rising.

And you hear a baby's cry.

And you can feel a mother's love.

And you feel happy and peaceful.

And it is getting lighter and lighter, brighter and brighter.

And you know that, even if it gets dark again,

you will never be afraid,

because there is a light in the world,

and his name is Jesus.

Ask the children to open their eyes. Depending on time and circumstances you may want to ask them how they feel, or get them to talk briefly about what they have imagined.

Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for all the lovely things you give us.
Above all, we thank you for sending us Jesus.
He lights up the world.
He brings us peace.
He brings us love,
and he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Christ the King

A short time of prayer for the classroom with KS2 children Christ the King, which is the last Sunday of the Church's Year before Advent begins.

Prepare a small table with a purple cloth.
Place an open bible, a lit candle and a crown.

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father +
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Brief Talk

Imagine if you ruled the world?
What kind of world would you create?
What laws would you make?
What rights would you give people?
What demands would you make of them?

Would you be a cruel king or a compassionate King?
Would you be a powerful Queen or peaceful Queen?

Yes, imagine if you ruled the world
What kind of world would you create?

Would your people be afraid and fearful
or happy and healthy?

If you could wear this crown, and be the King or Queen of all the world,
what kind of world would it be?

Today, we think about what kind of king Jesus is, and what kind of world he wants to create.

What does the kingdom of Jesus look like?
Jesus has only one law in his kingdom.
His law is to love.
All he wants is for people to love God and to love one another.

Ask the children to close their eyes

Think of the world today.
There are great and glorious things,

amazing things, fun things,
There is so much in the world to make us happy,
make us smile.

Think of some of those things now, the things that make you smile.

But there are also things that make us sad.
When people go hungry or thirsty,
When people don't have a home to live in,
or a roof over their head.
When we see polluted rivers and seas.
When God's beautiful world is harmed and spoiled.

But all of that can change
if every single person placed Love
as their law.

Imagine then what kind of world there would be!

Ask the children to open their eyes. Depending on time and circumstances you may want to ask them how they feel, or get them to talk briefly about what they have imagined, and what they can do to change the world.

Prayer

God our Father,
we thank you for Jesus our King
who has shown us how to love.
Help us and everyone
to fill your world with love.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let's pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

We say together:
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**