



# Edmund Rice Reflection

## A reflection on Presence

“Presence is about who you are rather than what you do”

Presence is one of the 3 core values of Edmund Rice, along with compassion and liberation. On reflection of his life, Edmund was someone that was truly present in the lives of others. He was attentive to the needs of those around him, taking time to listen and understand their issues before working with them to ensure their needs for education, clothing, a sense of dignity, were met. As Edmund put it, “Presence is about who you are rather than what you do.” . It shows us that everyone can be present in another person’s life in their own unique way, we don’t need to display the same level of commitment and dedication that Edmund showed.

**Question 1: Think about a time where someone was truly present in your life or when you were truly present in someone else’ life. How did you know that true presence was taking place? And how did you feel knowing that someone was there for you, or you were being present for someone else?**

**Question 2: What is one insight that struck you about yourself, life or other people?**

*Presence*

*Compassion*

*Liberation*

Someone simply being there in our journey and someone being present are two completely different things – being present involves actively displaying the qualities that define someone’s personality. Our reflection has shown us that true presence leaves a lasting impression on someone else’s life – so our goal should be to be truly present in the lives of others rather than simply being present at one stage of their lives.

**Please finish by saying the Edmund Rice Prayer**

### Edmund Rice Prayer

O God  
We thank you for the life of Edmund Rice  
He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice  
May we follow his example of faith and generosity  
Grant us the courage and compassion of Edmund as we seek to live  
lives of  
love and service  
We ask this through Christ our Lord  
Amen.  
Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.

