



# Thinking about The European Union

---

A School Assembly  
to mark Ireland's Presidency of the EU

**In our assembly today we are going to think about Ireland's presidency of the European Union.**



**Ireland took over the presidency on  
1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 and will hand over to  
Lithuania on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027.**



**Its motto is 'Strength with unity' and in these six months Ireland will host over 250 meetings and will guide the work in making law in Europe.**

You can watch a short video [here](#)



# Song

---

People in the European Union work hard to support peace in the world. You could sing:  
**Make me a channel of your peace.** youtube version



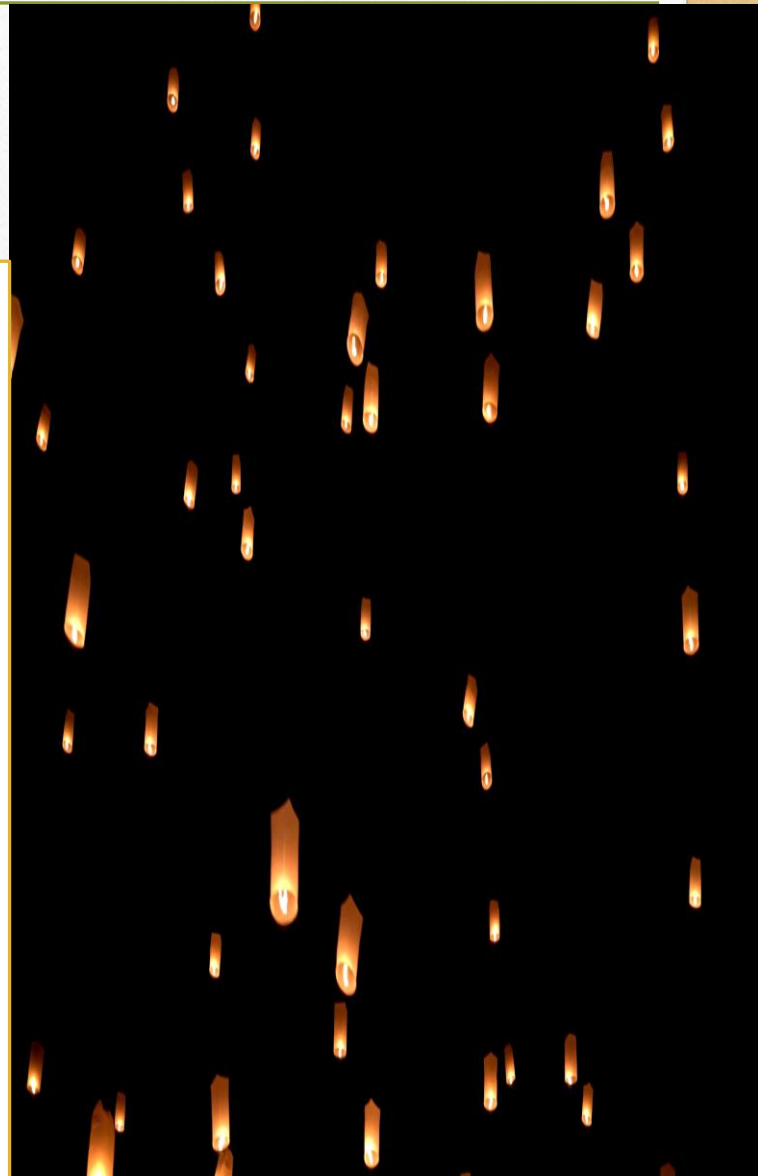
# Bible Reading

---

Jesus was on a mountain teaching crowds of people. Some of his teachings can be found in the book of Matthew. The teaching we are going to read tells people to be like lights for other people and to be good examples in what they do.

Jesus said: “You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don’t hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people.

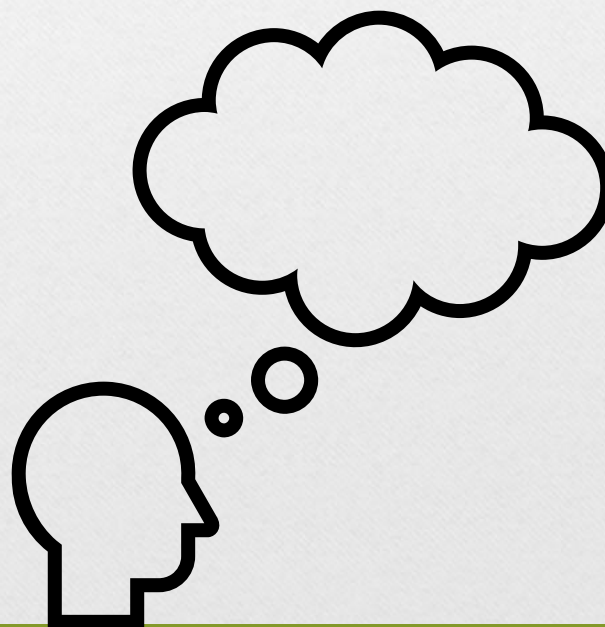
Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven.



# Think

---

What good things could Ireland do while they hold the EU Presidency?



# Do you know?

---

How many countries are in the EU?

How many official languages are in the EU?

What country was the most recent to join the EU?

# Do you know?

---

How many countries are in the EU?

There are twenty seven countries in the EU.

How many official languages are in the EU?

There are twenty four official languages including Irish.

What country was the most recent to join the EU?

Croatia joined in 2013

# Let us pray



Dear God, help all the people of the world that need it, especially in countries that are at war at this time. We pray for the Irish leaders who are taking responsibility for discussions on big European issues at this time. We pray they will look for ways to shine the light on positive good news stories. **Amen.**

# Let us pray



God of all nations

We pray for Ireland, this beautiful country.

Bless all who live here, wherever they come from.

Bless those who rule us, because they need our prayers.

Make our country a peaceful and happy place.

Help us to be proud of it, to play our part as young citizens.

And to make sure those who come after us can enjoy it too. Amen.

# Let us pray

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory  
For ever and ever, Amen.

You may like to say the  
Lord's Prayer in other  
languages. You can find  
some [here](#)

## Ár n-Athair

*Síocháin*

Ár nAthair, atá ar neamh,  
go naofar d'ainm,  
go dtaga do ríocht,  
go ndéantar do thoil ar talamh  
mar a dhéantar ar neamh.  
Ár n-arán laethúil tabhair dúinn inniu.  
Agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha,  
mar a mhaithimidne dár bhféichiúna féin.  
Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú,  
ach saor sinn ón olc.  
Óir is leatsa an ríocht, agus an chumhacht  
agus an ghlóir, trí shaol na saol. Áiméan

# Song

---

You could sing: This little light of mine to end assembly.

It reminds us to each do our best to shine as positive lights in the world.





# Thinking about The European Union

---

A School Assembly  
to mark Ireland's Presidency of the EU