

A SUITE OF GRACES FOR JESUS COLLEGE, OXFORD

Rationale

The EDI Committee mandated the Chaplain to compile a suite of 'graces'. The aim of this is to address a possible detriment, where a student is made a Scholar due to academic achievement, but feels unable (whether on grounds of conscience or unfamiliarity with Latin) to participate in the Scholar's privilege of saying grace at meals. By offering a suite of graces, the aim is to offer options for students in this particular situation.

Guidelines

The general model here is that the Traditional College Grace in Latin is the default reading.

But if a Scholar is not minded to read the Traditional College Grace, then - choosing from the menu of alternative 'graces' - one from the Scholar's own faith tradition should be read. If a Scholar is not from a faith tradition, then the 'Non-Religious' Grace option is expected to be said.

For the avoidance of doubt, there will be a few occasions in the calendar - for example an Islamic or Jewish Formal or the Feast marking St David's Day - when the integrity of the celebration will call for a specific grace to be read.

The Traditional College Grace

Nos miseri et egentes homines
pro cibo
quem ad alimoniam corporis sanctificatum
nobis es largitus,
ut eo utamur grati
Tibi, Deus Omnipotens, Pater caelestis,
gratias reverenter agimus,
simul obsecrantes ut cibum angelorum,
verum panem caelestem,
Verbum Dei aeternum,
Dominum nostrum Iesum Christum
nobis impertiaris,
ut illo mens nostra pascatur
et per carnem et sanguinem Eius
foveamur, alamur et corrobororemur. Amen

Alternative 'Graces'

The following options – subject to regular review and/or extension – are available:

Islamic Prayer Before Eating

(Source: At-Tirmidhi 5/506. See also Al-Albani, Sahih At-Tirmidhi 3/158. Hisnul Muslim 179)

'اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِيهِ وَأَطْعِمْنَا خَيْرًا مِنْهُ' 'اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِيهِ وَزِدْنَا مِنْهُ'

Whoever Allah has given food, should say: Allāhumma bārik lanā fihi. wa aṭ'imnā khayran minh.

Whoever Allah has given milk to drink, should say : Allāhumma bārik lanā fihi. wa zidnā minh.

Whoever Allah has given food, should say: O Allah, bless us in it and provide us with better than it.

Whoever Allah has given milk to drink, should say: O Allah, bless us in it and give us more of it.

Jewish Grace

(Source: Professor Susan Doran)

בִּירוֹת אֹתָהּ אֲדוֹנֵי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא מִיְּנֵי מִזּוֹנוֹת

(Transliteration: Borukh Uttah Adonoy Elohainu Melech Ha-Olam Bohray Minai Mzonot)

Blessed are you our God, King of the universe, who creates all kinds of foods.

Hindu Grace

*Brahmārpaṇāṃ Brahma Havir BrahmāgnauBrahmañāhutaṃ,
Brahmaiva Tena Gantavyam BrahmakarmāSamādhinah.*

The act of offering is God. The oblation is God. By God it is offered into the Fire of God.
God is That which is to be attained by him who performs action pertaining to God.
(*Bhagvad Gita*, Chapter IV, verse 24, Chapter XV, verse 14.)

Neo-Pagan Grace

Earth and sky, rain and sun,
we give thanks for all You've done.
Garden, pasture, seed and brood,
bless us with this gift of food. (Elizabeth Barrette, 2008)

'Non-religious' Grace

May we be thankful for the food we will eat,
and for the fellowship we enjoy, and may we keep in mind those in need.

Christian Graces in English

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts,
which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

For these good things, food and friends and faith, we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

Heavenly Father, for food in a hungry world, for companionship in a world of loneliness,
for peace in an age of violence, we give you thanks tonight. Amen.