

Jesus, Teach Me How To Pray
Hymnal Survey 6-1-24
By Don Howe

The purpose of this survey was to determine which hymnals listed the hymn and what melody was used. Information about the author and composers can be found in the HYMN OF THE MONTH July, 2024 write-up. This survey was taken from my own collection of Catholic hymnals which now number over one-hundred-fifty dating from the 1840s thru 1970s¹. The words of this hymn were written by a religious Sister of Mercy, from the Convent of Charleville, County Cork, Ireland. We know her only as Sr. M.B.

1. 1854 - Easy Hymns and Sacred Songs, text only, ref. HACH² pg. 50
2. 1864 – Crown of Jesus Music, #50, Subian Air, captioned: *The Holy Child*
3. 1881 - The Parochial Hymn Book #182, text only, 6 verses
4. 1883 - The Parochial Hymn Book #182, with music, melody #1
5. 1886 - Laudate Pueri #10, with music, 3 verses, melody #2
6. 1887 - Sunday School Hymn Book #42, with music, 4 verses, traditional melody, captioned: *Jesus, Teach Me How To Pray*, also found in the 1907 and 1935 editions
7. 1897 - The Parochial Hymn Book #106, with music, 6 verses, melody #1
8. 1898 - Catholic Hymns #8, with music, 6 verses, melody by F.N. Birtchnell (1860-1941), melody #3 (1886 and 1887), captioned: *Children's Hymn to the Holy Child (Christmas)*
9. 1904 – The Holy Family Hymn Book, #9, melody #11, captioned: *Jesus, Teach Me How To Pray*
10. 1905 - Catholic Church Hymnal #12, with music, 6 verses, melody by F.N. Birtchnell, melody #3
11. 1905 - The Notre Dame Hymn Tune Book #135, with music, 6 verses, melody by Mendelssohn, melody #4
12. 1907 – Psallite - #14, melody by Singenberger-Herder, captioned: *Jesus, Teach Me How To Pray*
13. 1907 - Sunday School Hymn Book #73, with music, 4 verses, traditional melody

¹ I do have a few hymn books from modern times, such as Adoremus, Gather III, and Glory & Praise, etc., but I do not typically look in them when I do a survey. This is because by the 1960s, 90% of Catholic devotional hymns were removed from Catholic hymnals in favor of protestant sources.

² Handbook For American Catholic Hymnals, J.V. Higginson, 1976;
<https://www.motherofmercycatholic hymns.com/conducting-hymn-research/>

14. 1908 – Youth’s Manual for Church and School – Hymns for the Children of the Catholic Church, #18, text only
15. 1908 – Hymns for the Ecclesiastical Year, #7, melody #12, captioned: *Jesus, Teach Me How To Pray*
16. 1911 – St. Cecilia’s Hymn Book (Dublin), #187, melody by Arth. De Meulemeester, captioned: *Jesus, Teach Me How To Pray*
17. 1912 - Crown Hymnal #15, with music, 3 verses, melody #13, captioned: *The Holy Child Jesus*
18. 1915 - The St. Paul Hymnal #96, with music, 1 verse, melody #6
19. 1925 – Sursum Corda, #12, melody #14, captioned: *Jesus, Teach Me*
20. 1926 - Cleveland Diocesan Hymnal #15, with music, 4 verses, melody by Bishop Schrembs, melody #7
21. 1927 - Our Lady of Mercy Vol.2 pg.27, with music, 4 verses, melody by a Sister of Mercy, melody #8
22. 1930 – Selected Hymns, #34, text only, ref. Sunday School Hymn Book, pg.73
23. 1930 – St. Joseph’s Hymnal, #24, traditional melody, captioned: *Jesus, Teach Me How To Pray*
24. 1935 – The Ordinary of the Mass and a Complete Manual of Hymns, page 136, text only, captioned: *Sweet Holy Child*
25. 1942 – Laudate Choir Manual, #70, melody #15, captioned: *Jesus, Teach Me How To Pray*
26. 1954 - St. Francis Parish Hymnal #5, text only, 3 verses, reference to Laudate Pueri #15 (10), melody #2
27. 1955 – Redemptorist Hymn Book, #33, melody #16, captioned: *Jesus, Teach Us How To Pray*, also the 1947 and 1951 editions