

**The following are school songs and hymns sung in the past by pupils at various schools run by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. This list is not complete and will be updated if more material is obtained. Present version- March 2018**

## **BATTERSEA**

1. To the school of our youth, in a chorus of song,  
Proud pupils of Notre Dame in unity strong  
Sing praise and devotion both loyal and true.  
The bond growing closer with links old and new.  
Hail to thee Notre Dame, school ever dear,  
True is our love for you while we are here,  
True still and deeper, enduring and strong,  
While 'neath thy sheltering roof no more we throng.
2. We will ever be true, both in action and word,  
To the high aspirations your training has stirred,  
Uplifting our voices when troubles assail,  
In prayer and petition which never shall fail.  
Truth is our watchword. Faith be our shield.  
Strong be our fortitude never to yield.  
High be our standard with purity bright,  
True e'er to God, to Notre Dame, and to right.

## **BIRKDALE**

1. Strong and sure stands our home of childhood,  
Notre Dame in the dear West land,  
Where the red tower firmly rises  
Over the seas and the shifting sand,  
With its upward finger marking  
Where our childish feet have trod,  
Teaching children past and present  
That all school days lead to God.
2. Work and play, and sun and shadow  
In our training have played their part,  
Chapel, classrooms, hall and garden  
Stamp themselves on our mind and heart -  
Each the place where with courage fearless  
we gazed with eager eyes of youth  
on the unforgotten glory  
of new-found Beauty, Love and Truth.
3. As we go on our high adventure  
towards the ideal that still shines clear,

May we feel in our life's hours of darkness  
help from the patrons we honoured here.  
Blessed Julie we claim as mother,  
Our lives we trust to her loving care,  
But Mary's children by special title -  
"Notre Dame" the proud name we bear.

4. Not from study alone our learning,  
Nobler far as a woman's art  
Sweeter yet is a woman's wisdom  
Springing pure from a loving heart.  
This we learnt where the red lamp glimmers,  
From our Master, Teacher, Friend;  
May we render our life's allegiance  
Safe to Him at our journey's end

## CLERKHILL

1. Sing we now our Alma Mater  
Cliff perched near the world famed Clyde,  
There are welcomed Past and Present,  
There the doors are open wide.  
The birthday of our Queen and Mother  
was our dear school's birthday too.  
Therefore now she guards her children  
sheltered 'neath her banner blue.  
'Rejoice Always' our motto ever  
For God is so very good.
2. 'Neath its roof we've raised Christ's standard,  
Fealty sworn to Christ the King.  
And we've served him in his army.  
As his soldiers combating.  
Hence we know what e'er betide us,  
when from here we travel far,  
Christ the King will be our leader,  
Notre Dame our guiding star.  
'Rejoice Always' our motto ever  
For God is so very good.
3. Years may pass, yet we'll be remembered  
Clerkship near the riverside,  
By Notre Dame whatever betide.  
Let the hillside then re-echo  
with our great and glad refrain.  
Whether God sends sun or shadow  
'Rejoice Always' - rejoice again  
'Rejoice Always' our motto ever,  
For God is so very good

## LEEDS COLLEGIATE / GRAMMAR / HIGH SCHOOL

1. Notre Dame your loyal children gather here to sing your praise.  
To the school we love and honour we our grateful tribute raise.  
Far and near your flag is flying, nationwide your gentle rule.  
We are proud to be enlisted in the ranks of this your school.

*Chorus*            *Notre Dame, great Queen of Heaven*  
*As our patroness we claim.*  
*Notre Dame, our Alma Mater,*  
*Go forth, in strength, and reign.*

2. Countless are the footsteps, you first taught the paths to climb,  
Where by prayer and work and service each would reach a goal sublime.  
Countless too those other children, who still look with pride to you,  
As they fight life's sterner battles, ever to your standards true.

*Chorus:*

3. We your present generation bring our grateful tribute too  
By our lives of generous service, we in turn would honour you.  
Claim us ever as your children, though we win no earthly fame  
We will strive to spread Christ's kingdom in his Blessed Mothers name.

*Chorus:*

## LIVERPOOL MOUNT PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL

*Used from about 1927 to 1940 remembered by Sr. Marie Josephine Parkes .*

*Chorus:* Suaviter in modo et fortiter in re. (repeat)

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|--|---|
| 1.     The children of Our Lady,<br>The scholars of her school,<br>The pupils of her Sisters<br>Be worthy of her rule. | 2.     So keep we true forever<br>To what we sing today<br>To strength in faith and principle<br>But peace in word and way. |
|--|---|

*Chorus:*

*Chorus:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3.     Yes, strength to keep unsullied<br>Our purity and truth<br>And sweet to teach to others<br>The lessons of our youth. | 4.     Our girlhood years are passing<br>And all of us must part,<br>But still the dear old motto<br>Will knit us heart to heart. |
|---|---|

*Chorus:*

*Chorus:*

5.     In future as in present,  
       Still loyal to the past  
       To Mary and Mount Pleasant  
       As long as life shall last.

*Chorus:*

## **LIVERPOOL NOTRE DAME COLLEGIATE SCHOOL EVERTON VALLEY**

*Words by Fr. O'Connor. Music by Dom. Alphege Shebbere O.S.B.*

1. Notre Dame, our Alma Mater thine are we for aye.  
Shall not ev'ry loyal daughter sing thy praise today?  
Budding April, June of splendour, Autumn sheaves of gold,  
Hoary Winter, homage render as thy claims unfold.
2. Us in April days thou lovest, teaching truth and right,  
Rosy June thou still approvest, beaming love and light.  
Mellow in our Autumn shinest, be we near or far.  
In our grey hair mem'ries twinest, fresh as morning star.
3. Both thy hands do give us, Mary, while thine eyes say 'Christ',  
May these loves not fade nor vary but emparadised  
In our clear and constant spirit guide in every way.  
All our steps till we inherit beatific day.

## **MANCHESTER**

1. We are the subject of our Queen, to her we will be true.  
We are the children of her school for her is all we do.  
We'll do our best to make her blessed, her name we ne'er will shame.  
In school girl days in life's broad ways, we'll praise her glorious name.  
Oh happy we, and proud to be of Notre Dame so dear.  
True to our school, safe in its rule, Our lady ever near.
2. Her son we'll serve and never swerve from faith and principle.  
Unsullied be our purity, our trust invisible.  
In future years we'll know no fears, though parted we must be.  
One motto bright shall e'er unite children of Notre Dame.  
What e'er betides, we will confide in Mary and her Son.  
"Noblesse Oblige" Our Lady sees our duty must be done

## **NORTHAMPTON**

*words by Sister Francis S.H. (Headmistress) Music by Sister Margherita B.S.Mus.*

1. Sing the story o'er and over of the joy our hearts do hold  
As we greet our Alma Mater and our girlhood's love unfold.  
For the School's strong heart is beating in one universal theme;  
And the past unites with present in the love which is supreme.

*Chorus: Dear Notre Dame thy children stand in spirit near thy throne,  
where the rapture of the angels finds an echo in their own.  
For alike to past and present doth right to love belong,  
And the might of strength is given to their glad united song.*

2. Thou hast been to us God's garden, where his choicest flowers grew,  
Where the virtues that he loveth bloomed for us, his chosen few.  
Thou hast been to us the arsenal where we armed for the fight;  
Thou hast taught us, thou hast led us, e'er to strive for truth and right.

*Chorus:*

3. Fleeting years may bear us from thee, far across life's rolling foam,  
But in heart we will be with thee, our much loved convent home.  
Other homes may claim our service, far away 'neath distant skies.  
They may stand or they may perish, Alma Mater never dies.

*Chorus:*

## **NORWICH**

1. Notre Dame forever will be worth of all praise;  
From our hearts eternally loving songs we'll raise.  
Fashioned by that hand so fair, 'neath her gentle rule,  
Mothered with a tender care in Our Lady's school.

*Chorus:*

*Pro virile parte, in a kind gracious way,  
striving daily to imitate Mary's heart compassionate,  
Ever ready to forgive, letting love the heart outlive.  
Marigold to us will be Mary's flower courtesy.*

2. Sweet the title that we bear, Mary's children dear,  
Proud her livery to wear in our schooldays here.  
Loyalty our watchword true, faith our flaming brand,  
Zeal the spirit to renew this, Our Lady's land.

*Chorus:*

3. With a fervent will we pray that the faith of days of yore  
flourish in our land once more.  
May our country's peaceful vales, wooded hills and grassy dales  
yield abundantly each hour Mary's England's fairest flower.

*Chorus:*

**NOTE:** The website apologises if the above version is incorrect and would welcome any corrections or omissions.

## PLYMOUTH

1. We have fallen in line with the troops that go,  
Notre Dame still strong abreast.  
They have marched far ahead, and the rear is filled,  
with a bugle note so keen, and a cry that long has been,  
as we live Notre Dame for your endless name,  
We will live and die for our Queen.

*Chorus: Ring Notre Dame, Ring Notre Dame,  
Ring our souls from the weak and the sham,  
Turn our wills to the right, keep us true to the light,  
Lift us up to your height.  
Notre Dame, Notre Dame.*

2. As we strive for the school and the tough game play,  
and the hill of knowledge climb,  
There's work to do and an aim to cast,  
Far beyond the bounds of time.  
In Our Lady's glorious name, there's an ensign brave we claim.  
Oh, the banner blue of Our Lady's bliss  
that will ne'er be brought to shame.

*Chorus:*

3. We must march in the world; with its millions share  
Every blow and battle-shock,  
Till we've built up to God, oh! A City fair  
On a strong unfailing rock,  
Now we see the whole wide plan,  
We must fill the part we can;  
For our Lady lives and her bugle calls  
To her troops that lead the van.

*Chorus:*

## SAINT HELENS

*Written by Samuel Broughton, music teacher there about 1942*

1. Let us sing a song of the school we love,  
Let us praise this seat of learning;  
for it shines on our lives like a beacon bright  
With the flame of knowledge burning.  
Here grows wisdom's fairest flowers ,  
Here we pass the happy hours,  
Here we cultivate our powers  
Ever led by love discerning.

*There is another verse.*     **NOTE**     *Anyone know the second verse? Contact Us*

## SHEFFIELD

There appears to be two school songs.

### Song 1

1. Notre Dame your loyal children gather here to sing your praise,  
To the school we love and honour, we our grateful tribute raise.  
Far and near your flag is flying, nationwide your gentle rule,  
We are proud to be enlisted in the ranks of this your school.

*Chorus: Notre Dame, great Queen of Heaven  
As our patroness we claim,  
Notre Dame our Alma Mater  
Go forth in strength and reign.*

2. Countless are the footsteps you first taught the paths to climb,  
That through prayer and work and service each might reach a goal sublime.  
Countless too those older children who still look with pride to you,  
As they fight life's sterner battles, ever to your standard true.

*Chorus:*

3. We your present generation bring our grateful tribute too,  
By our lives of generous service we in turn would honour you.  
Claim us ever as your children, though we win no earthly fame,  
We will strive to spread Christ's Kingdom in his Blessed Mother's name.

*Chorus:*

**NOTE** *The above song is identical to the one which was sung in Leeds from the late 50s onwards.  
Contact us if you know anything more.*

### Song 2

1. With Hearts aglow, round banner bright  
In serried ranks we stand;  
All ready for the glorious fight,  
Against all wrong, for Christ's own right  
To rule our loved land! (twice).

*Chorus: And in fighting we will sing  
May our voices gladly ring  
In homage true to Christ our King,  
To Christ and Notre Dame.*

2. And honour true our motto be  
To high ideals here trained  
Our model in Our Lady see  
In all our needs our Mother she  
From her all wisdom gained. (twice).

*Chorus:*

3. With Saint Mere Julie's love aglow,  
How good is God we sing.  
We reap past's seeds and present sow,  
To make all men His Beauty know  
And souls to Christ to bring. (twice).

**NOTE** *As this song includes Saint Mere it implies usage after 1969 (Ed)*

## **SOUTHWARK**

*School song pre 1948*

*Words and melody S.N.D. accompaniment Marian Leetch.*

1. All hail to our school, let our voices resound,  
In a paean of joy, and of gladness profound.  
Extolling her virtues, her wisdom, her power,  
In this haven of our youth, God's bounteous dower,  
Homage then to her we pray.  
Daughters of Southwark, loyal and true,  
Hear now your sisters calling to you, calling to you.  
Long may we cherish her memory sweet and gay,  
Alma Mater, all our hearts are thine for aye.
2. Loyal hearts have gone forth from her sheltering care  
Aglow with the courage to do and to dare.  
With duty their watchword, and honour their rule,  
Nobly they've stood by the dear old school  
And they bless her name always.  
Sing we the praise of her we revere,  
Heart and tongue proclaim our love and gratitude sincere  
Come cloud and sunshine, true to her we'll be.  
Notre Dame, God's blessing rest for ever on thee.
3. In the days yet to come, may the arm of her might,  
Strike ever and only, and surely for right.  
Not in word, but in deed, be her valour displayed,  
And the hour of her glory, may never fade,  
But increase from day to day.  
Boldly her colours aloft we will bear,  
So its message in our hearts, we may hear.  
To the ranks of Our Lady, true loyalty we bring,  
"Amare et Servire", yea we'll follow our King.



**School song from 1948**

*Words: Sr. Joseph Partridge S.N.D. Headmistress 1947-1957.*

*Melody: Sr. Emmanuel Mary O'Keefe Head of Music 1947 -1972*

*Harmony: Dr. Douglas Mews.*

1. O Notre Dame, our Mother and our Queen,  
O hear your children calling you today,  
O by the name we bear we humbly plead,  
That you will hear us as we humbly pray.
  
2. Billiard  
The star of faith shines out with steadfast light,  
The star of love burns clear with glowing flames:  
The star of trust in God who is so good,  
Three stars are set round dear Saint Julie's name.  
Her life was passed in the shadow of the cross,  
But darkness could not quench her burning love:  
May Billiard's children follow where she led,  
and join her song of praise in Heaven above.
  
3. Bourdon  
The first whom Julie saw beneath the cross,  
Most glorious of the Bourdon name;  
No slander could overthrow her loyal love,  
Her faith withstood all threats of loss and shame.  
The call of wealth and power and high estate  
no answer found within her loyal heart,  
O Bourdon, keep her standard lifted high,  
And strive in life to choose the better part.
  
4. Petre  
The crest of Petre on our flag shines bright,  
and proudly we salute that honoured name,  
A name descended from the martyrs' blood,  
For Stafford, Petre, Arundel we claim.  
Yet humble daughter too of Notre Dame,  
Her noble wealth and rank she laid aside,  
but not forgotten in our hearts she lives,  
Her name, our honour and our House, our pride.
  
5. Towneley  
The greatness of the soul that lies within,  
The scorn of worldly praise and its delights;  
The kindly heart that rends another's pain,  
The strength that seeks God only on the heights -  
All this the crest of Townley proudly bears,  
The noble standard of a shining name.  
O Townley, hold the truth and keep the faith,  
Serve God alone and seek no earthly fame.

## TEIGNMOUTH 1924

1. Where the hill leads steeply upwards and the sea shines far below,  
where the grass, a gleaming em'rald, in the summer light doth glow,  
where the the wild rose in the hedgerows blooms fair for children' hands  
as a gem upon the hillside, Our Lady's Convent stands.
2. Far beneath upon the seashore Devon's ruddy rocks arise.  
Far away from off the moorland comes a breeze of Paradise,  
the sea in changing loveliness prophetic is of life,  
today the sunlit waters; anon the storm and strife.
3. Oh! oft in dreams of fancy we will tread these realms of truth.  
Though the years lie between us and the happy days of youth,  
we will tread the Convent garden where the gentle Zephyr blows.  
we will give our hearts allegiance to our Queen, the mystic rose.
4. Oh! should the storm clouds lower, and life sea be sorely tossed,  
should the ship be out of harbour and the beacon light be lost,  
we will turn in fond remembrance to the red light burning still.  
Where the guest divine is sheltered in the Convent on the hill.

## WIGAN

1. Notre Dame 'neath your banner we proudly stand  
clad in armour of radiant white,  
Six regiments, brave and fearless in a glorious cause to fight,  
We group round our standard divinely fair  
Our colours are six in hue.  
Our watchword: God's greater glory,  
Prayer and sacrifice our weapons true.

*Chorus: All hail to the King of our army  
Our royal Divine Child King.  
For he is the link that binds us  
And loudly His praise we sing.  
Hurrah for our saintly commanders  
Our halls with their fame shall ring.  
Saint Therese and our dear Saint Julie  
Lead the army of Christ our King.*

2. We fear no foe for our battle cry  
Strikes terror in enemies' camps:  
'Laudate Jesus Christus' resounds through triumphant ranks.  
Our route is the little way so sure  
Saint Therese of Lisieux trod  
and onwards we march, a victorious host,  
winning souls for Christ our God.

*Chorus:* TENTING MOUNT PLEASANT

We are tenting tonight on the old camp ground,  
where many have tented before,  
Far from the range of shot and shell  
and beyond the cannon's roar.  
Many are the souls that have come and gone  
and have blessed the camp on the hill.  
Many be the souls, oh dear Notre Dame,  
That may come and bless thee still.

TENTING TONIGHT, TENTING TONIGHT, TENTING ON THE OLD CAMP GROUND.(twice)

We know that the time for rest is short,  
for strife is raging hard;  
We must fight for the king who has fought for us,  
For we are his mother's guard.  
But many is the time, that our hearts shall turn  
to the dear old Camp on the Hill,  
And its image shall nerve the wearied arm  
and shall brace the flagging will.

O what of the years since it first was pitched  
On the hill in the winter's snow?  
The camp is the same though its tents be more  
As at Candlemas long ago.  
Still as of old is the King's own tent  
with its red lamp's flickering light;  
Still as of old the regiments press  
Round his feet at

And what of the brave who have passed away  
Since that winter of years ago?  
They fell, as they fall who have tented here  
With their faces towards the foe.  
Many is the prayer which our comrades above  
in the city where the files are crowned  
Shall breathe for the troops that are fighting below,  
Or tenting on the old camp ground.

We will fight to the death in Our Lady's ranks,  
And her medal shall be our shield,  
We'll be true to the death to our heart's  
We never will flinch or yield.  
True to the training of bygone years, and true to the Home we found  
when we first bivouacked 'neath her banner blue,  
on the hill on the old camp ground.

## St Julie Hymn

1. O Notre Dame the echoes waken  
With praise of dear Saint Julie's name.  
From her own song our keynote taking  
Deep in each heart sweet music making.

*Chorus:*

*The good God is so very good.  
The good God is so very good.  
The good God is so very good we sing.  
The good God is so very good.*

2. "Te Deum" then for she has striven  
And overcome the ancient foe.  
A new name unto her is given  
Proclaimed on earth a saint in Heaven.

*Chorus:*

3. Magnificat again repeating  
Dear Saint Julie in thy name,  
While then for us Our Lord entreating  
In Mary's name our foes defeating.

*Chorus:*

**NOTE** *If anyone has any information about the above hymn we would love to hear from you. Some of the words have been changed since the canonisation of St Julie in 1969 but something similar was sung by my mother in a Manchester primary school before the First World War (Ed)*

**The Holiday Hymn**      [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbdkR27RHaE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbdkR27RHaE)

The origin of this hymn is difficult to find. It certainly doesn't specifically belong to Notre Dame as it has been sung by many schools over the years. (There is a recording on Youtube of it being sung in India!) In my experience this hymn was sung on the last day of the summer term causing many of the school leavers to burst into tears!

1. Mother of all that is pure and glad  
All that is bright and blest  
As we have taken out toil to thee  
So we will take our rest  
take thou and bless our holiday

O Causa Nostrae Laetitiae

2.     Airs that are soft and a cloudless sky  
       We would owe all to thee.  
       Speak to Thy Son as Thou didst of old  
       That feast-day in Galilee  
       Tell Him our needs in thine own sweet way

O Causa Nostrae Laetitiae

3.     Be with us Mother from morn to eve  
       Thou and thy Blessed Son  
       Keep us from all that is grief to you  
       'Till the weeks and the month are run  
       Thine be we still when grave or gay

O Causa Nostrae Laetitiae.

4.     Smile upon all that is dear to us  
       Smile on our school and home  
       Smile on the days that are passing now  
       Smile on the years to come  
       Brighten our work and gladden our play

O Causa Nostrae Laetitiae

5.     Keep us in all that is blest of God  
       Give us the joys that endure  
       Lips that have smiles and words for all  
       Hearts that are kind and pure  
       So wilt Thou be by night and day

O Causa Nostrae Laetitiae

6.     Come when earth's tears and smiles are o'er  
       Mother of peace and love  
       Show us to Him that is joy to earth  
       And joy to the hosts above  
       So shall we laugh in the latter day

O Causa Nostrae Laetitiae.

