



THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (8 November 2020)

Liturgy and Prayer Resources for Catholic Communities During Suspension of Liturgical Celebrations Due to Coronavirus (2020)

During the period of suspension of public liturgies in response to the Coronavirus crisis, Catholics can take heart from one of the key decrees of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) on Christ's presence in the liturgy:

'Christ is always present in his Church, especially in its liturgical celebrations. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of his minister, "the same now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross" but especially under the Eucharistic elements. By his power he is present in the sacraments, so that when a man baptises it is really Christ himself who baptises. He is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church. He is present, lastly when the Church prays and sings, for he promised: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Mt 18:20).

[Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1963) art. 7]

If parishioners pray at home at the same time they would normally be together praying at Mass, there is a very real sense in which two or three are gathering in Christ's name, in the unity of their prayer rather than of their physical person. Individual and family prayer based on the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours and other sources provides members of parishes and families with an opportunity to honour Christ's presence in the domestic Church as those present pray to God in thanksgiving for gifts received, and for the needs of the Church and the world.



RESOURCE PREPARED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

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VARIOUS PRAYER RESOURCES

WEBSITES

- [Liturgy Brisbane](#)
- [Liturgy Help](#) (Creative Ministry Resources)
- [Masses Online and Prayer Resources](#) (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference)
- [Pray.com.au](#) (Jesuit Publications)
- [Pray with the Pope](#)
- [Universalis](#)

CREATING SPACE FOR PRAYER

1. Create a prayerful, welcoming space;
2. Include familiar liturgical symbols: water, cross, Bible, greenery/flowers and others as appropriate;
3. Light a candle and utilise music and singing;
4. Foster a reflective atmosphere of praise, thanks and intercession.

Natural disasters have been causing turmoil in several countries around the world. Visit [Caritas Australia](#) to find out how you can help.



SEASONAL HYMN

SIGN OF THE CROSS

V. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

V. With one heart and one mind let us bless the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

R. Blessed be God for ever.

CONFITEOR

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to hear God's word.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

OR

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate God's word.

Lord, Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of Good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer:
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy
on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,

we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 6:12–16 (JB)

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her,
she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking
for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 62:2–8 (JB)

R. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (JB)

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 24:42, 44

(JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1–13 (JB)

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told this parable to his disciples:

'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.

'The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed.

'The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

LONGING FOR GOD

Psalm 63(62) is an exquisite love poem that expresses the intimate bond between God and the worshipper. The author of this psalm is exiled in an arid land far from the temple in Jerusalem. He longs to experience the presence of God in the temple sanctuary.

Though separated from the temple, the pre-eminent place of the presence of God, the psalmist has a sense that God is close to him in exile. He knows that God hears his prayer and that, even in exile, the shadow of God's wing protects him.

The psalmist's seemingly contradictory experiences of God as being absent yet present, separate yet close, are apparent in our lives also. We believe that Christ our saviour is present with us now, yet it will only be at the end of time when he comes again in glory that we will experience the fullness of his saving presence. Until then his presence is somewhat shadowed by the contrary lights of this world.

In this in-between time we can grow tired of longing for Christ's final coming in glory. We can become accustomed to our present circumstances and forget that something greater awaits us. Like the foolish bridesmaids in today's Gospel we can be caught unprepared when the heavenly bridegroom comes in glory. We need to maintain our longing for Christ and today's psalm reminds us that prayer will help us to do this. As we await the final coming of Christ, the words 'Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!' should never be far from our lips.

Michael Goonan SSP

I THIRST FOR YOU, O LORD MY GOD

This Sunday's Scriptural theme is that we must wait in readiness for the Lord who comes at a time which we do not know.

In the ancient Mediterranean world in which Jesus lived, the task of bridesmaids was to accompany the bride when her bridegroom came to take her in procession to their new home. Since this procession usually happened at night, the one thing that any competent bridesmaid had to do was to have a lamp with enough oil to last out the night. In Jesus' humorous story in today's Gospel, some foolish bridesmaids had one job to do but failed it. The point, as we groan at the impossibility of this happening, is to hear Jesus' message to all of us: 'Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

The Christians at Thessalonika were worried about how God would manage the end-days, which they believed were coming soon. Paul encouraged these new Christians to stop pointless speculation about when and how Jesus would return and instead trust that God cares for each one of us. 'We shall all be with the Lord' is the ancient Christian hope with which we meet death in all its forms.

Today, under COVID-19 we have met many deaths and have suffered grief, anxiety and long-term uncertainty about what is going to happen. It takes wisdom to respond to this new world. Yet the ancient Scriptures assure us that wisdom is all around us, at our gates, making her rounds, meeting us 'with all solicitude.'

Underneath our anxiety in these days sits our longing for God. So, let us sing our Psalm refrain with true feeling: 'My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.'

Michele Connolly RSJ

St Pauls Publications and the authors have allowed the publication of this reflection to support the spiritual needs of Catholics unable to attend Mass at this time.



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(All bow, up to the word 'man')

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Amen

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Introduction

Mindful of the call to be vigilant until the coming of the Lord,
let us pray for all in need of God's assistance at this time.

Intentions

We pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all members of
the clerical, religious and lay apostolates: that they will read
the "signs of the times" in the light of the Gospel of the Lord
and Christ's call to conversion. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.



We pray for all existing and newly established governments at national, state and local levels: that politicians will use their powers and ministries to promote unity, prosperity, justice and peace among all members of society. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all teachers and students engaged in education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels: that their efforts to foster learning, the pursuit of new discoveries and truth will be blessed, particularly during periods of enforced isolation. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all communities dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the United States and Europe: that all people will live with responsibility towards health regulations and that medical teams will be successful in treating the sick and finding accessible vaccines. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all affected by natural disasters, human catastrophes and atrocities, or accidental misadventures, particularly N. _____: that those who lost their lives will find peace and rest in Christ, and that local communities, families and individuals will be strengthened to assist the injured and to rebuild their lives. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died recently, especially the victims of the COVID-19 virus, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially N. _____: that they will rest in the peace of Christ and rise in glory on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Conclusion

Almighty and eternal God, source of everlasting wisdom, we ask you to hear our prayers as we await the coming of Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us join our prayers with the prayer Jesus gave us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

St Alphonsus Liguori, alt. (1696-1787)

CONCLUSION

Leader: Let us pray.

Nourished by this spiritual communion, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING SEASONAL HYMN OR SONG OF PRAISE/THANKSGIVING

PRAYER RESOURCES

COMMON PSALM FOR ORDINARY TIME

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**
4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

BENEDICTUS (Morning) Luke 1:68–79 (ICET tr.)

All make the sign of the cross.

1. Blessed be + the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
2. Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies, from the
hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.
3. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
4. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most
High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
5. In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
6. Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

MAGNIFICAT (Evening) Luke 1:46–55 (ICET tr.)

All make the sign of the cross.

1. My soul + proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
2. From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
3. He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
4. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
5. He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.
6. Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS (Night) Lk 2:29–32; (ICEL tr.)

**R. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake;
watch over us as we sleep,
that awake we may keep watch with Christ,
and, asleep, rest in his peace.**

1. Lord, + now you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled. **Ant.**
2. My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people. **Ant.**
3. A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel. **Ant.**
4. Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be fore ever.
Ant.

PRAYER FROM VOTIVE MASS FOR THE SICK

[*Roman Missal (2010) p. 1378*]

Collect

Let us pray:

O God, who willed that our infirmities
be borne by your Only Begotten Son
to show the value of human suffering,
listen in kindness to our prayers
for our brothers and sisters who are sick;
grant that all who are oppressed by pain,
distress or other afflictions
may know that they are chosen
among those proclaimed blessed
and are united to Christ
in his suffering for the salvation of the world.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*The National Council of Churches, who have invited all of
us to pray this prayer at 7pm each day:*

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and
overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or
grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain
all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment
amidst the many choices and decisions
facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do
to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations,
with all that is on our hearts,
we gather now and pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Almighty and all-merciful God,
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
in whom there is no shadow of death,
save us in this time of crisis;
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
watch over all medical people
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
that hope may never die
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,
may shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.
Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith
firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.
Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial,
but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed
Virgin.

Translation by Catholic News Service