



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (23 August 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.

If you are able, donate to [Caritas Australia's Project Compassion](#) and the [Sea Sunday appeal](#).

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.

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.

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.

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place

where true gladness is found.
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.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 22:19–23

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,

I remove you from your post,

and the same day I call on my servant

Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,

gird him with your sash,

entrust him with your authority;

and he shall be a father

to the inhabitants of Jerusalem

and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,

should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg

into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory

for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 137:1–3, 6, 8 (JB)

R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you,
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love.
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 11:33–36 (JB)

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 16:18 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13–20 (JB)

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.'

Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

CONFIDENT IN GOD

In today's Gospel Jesus gives Peter a share in his messianic authority, declaring, 'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church'. By human standards Peter could have been considered unsuitable for such an office. On more than one occasion he proved to be a rock that could crack under pressure. His main redeeming quality was his faith in Jesus. Though this too proved weak and imperfect at times, he was able to say of Jesus, 'You are Christ, the Son of the living God'.

Despite his limitations, Peter could undertake his mission with confidence, trusting not in his own abilities but in the power of Christ working through him. Jesus did not say to Peter, 'you will build my Church'. Rather, 'you are the rock on which I will build my Church'.

Like Peter, the author of today's psalm is a limited human being. But he too finds confidence in God whose love is eternal and whose faithfulness exceeds all knowing. He notes that God looks on the lowly but knows the haughty from afar. The haughty are those full of confidence in themselves who feel they have no need for God. The lowly are the humble of heart who look to God for help and guidance.

Authority is a big responsibility. Many of us hold the key to one office or another, be it in the home or at work, in the Church or in the wider community. Whatever our talents, we can undertake our roles with confidence if we seek to be guided by the love and wisdom of God.

Michael Goonan SSP

GOD'S LOVE IS ETERNAL

In today's first reading we hear God speak in a way that we will hear in a new way, later, in the Gospel. God promises to replace an inadequate master of the palace of God's king with someone in whom God will invest true authority. With the authority of the keys, what this servant opens will stay open; what he shuts will stay shut. To the family of God, he will give stability and honour.

In the Gospel Jesus asks his disciples about who they say he is. Simon Peter's answer, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God', leads Jesus to speak to Peter in the way God spoke about Eliakim in Isaiah's prophecy. Peter will be the rock of stability on which Jesus will build his house of faith. However, the authority of the keys given to Peter will far exceed that of Eliakim. Not merely earthly things but things in heaven will be bound or loosed on Peter's word. Such is the God Jesus makes known to us, who allows human beings such intimacy with God.

Paul has been pondering the mystery of God's salvific action for Jews and Gentiles in history. Today he concludes this reflection with a great hymn of praise to God's wisdom. Paul draws on the wealth of his Jewish heritage for ideas and poetry to create a great Christian exclamation of praise to God.

The Psalm also celebrates what God is like. For God's kindness, especially to the lowly, we sing, 'Lord, your love is eternal.'

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

Let us bring our intentions to God, whose wisdom is beyond
our understanding, but whose love and care for us is always
within reach when we call.

Intentions

We pray for Pope Francis, the successor of St Peter the
Apostle: that our Holy Father will be strengthened and
continually empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead the Church
to fulfil its mission in the world. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer



We pray for all civic leaders: that they will draw upon the gifts of wisdom and knowledge to make decisions that will best serve the community particularly amongst the young, those who have lost jobs, immigrants and older people. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all communities dealing with the COVID-19 virus: that their leaders in government, health care and science will be successful in caring for the sick and discovering accessible vaccines. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all who live with disabilities and those who care for them: that their unique gifts and loving care will be a source of inspiration for others.

R. Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all affected by natural disasters, human catastrophes and atrocities, or accidental misadventure, 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 those who have died in aged care, 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

Gracious and loving God, source of wisdom and summit of salvation, your Son entrusted power to his Church. We ask you to hear the pleas we make this day for our world, Church and community in need. Through Christ our Lord.

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.

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,
the healing work of your mercy
and graciously perfect and sustain us,
so that in all things we may please you.
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

PSALM AND CANTICLES FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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.

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