



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (6 September 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.

Today is Social Justice Sunday 2020. Read the full statement and access resources here: [“To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today”](#).

## 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, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,  
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,  
that those who believe in Christ

may receive true freedom  
and an everlasting inheritance.  
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

Ezekiel 33:7–9 (JB)

***If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.***

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 94:1–2, 6–9 (JB)

**R.** O that today you would listen to his voice!  
‘Harden not your hearts.’

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord.

**R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand.

**R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ **R.**

## SECOND READING Romans 13:8–10 (JB)

**Love is the fulfilment of the Law.**

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 2 Corinthians 5:19 (JB)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL Matthew 18:15–20 (JB)

***If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.***

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

#### ***LISTEN TO GOD'S VOICE TODAY***

Psalm 95 (94) is a hymn of praise introducing the people to God's presence. It served to remind the Jewish people as they came into the temple that they were entering a sacred place. When we gather for liturgy we too come into the presence of God in a special way. As Jesus tells us in today's Gospel, 'Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them'.

Our awareness of God's presence fills us with a sense of humble awe prompting us to bow before God. We are also filled with joy and sing God's praises. Such songs and gestures have meaning only if we have a genuine desire to listen to God's voice. If we come to liturgy with hardened hearts, our songs and gestures are mere hypocritical show.

In the liturgy God speaks to us in many ways – in the Scripture readings, the prayers, the silences, the hymns, the ministers and the worshipping community, even in the baby crying a few pews away. 'Lord, what are you saying to me in this disturbance?', we might pray.

God speaks to us in other ways as well – in the brother or sister who courageously calls us back to God; in the prophets who stand sentry for our society and point out where we are going wrong, often at great personal cost; in the members of our community who seek to reconcile differences.

O that today we will listen to God's voice.

***Michael Goonan SSP***

#### ***LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE LORD!***

How do we know the will of God for us? Today's readings show that we do not need to guess at the will of God; rather, God gives us ways to discern God's will.

Sometimes there is a prophetic figure in our midst, like the prophet Ezekiel, who must speak the word of God that he or she hears. However, each person has the responsibility to heed God's prophet.

For this reason, the Psalm sings 'O that today you would listen to the Lord – harden not your hearts!' The Psalm notes that we know God's voice from events in our lives that show God acting to care for us.

In Romans, Paul writes that in imitation of Jesus we live by his law of agapē love, 'the debt of mutual love.' Paul shows that the ancient 'ten commandments' are summed up in this law. Paul preaches Jesus' vision of a love of mutual vulnerability and mutual benefit, in which there is no place for habitual, exploitative dominance of one over another.

Finally, Matthew presents Jesus giving advice to the Christian community about how to resolve conflict that will inevitably arise. Both the person acting wrongly and the community must be treated with dignity. Jesus himself promises that he will be with the community assembled, whose decisions heaven will respect, whether of binding or of loosing from obligation. Praying and working together reasonably, the Christian community can have the courage to go ahead in history, making the decisions that are necessary for the good of the community.

***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

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, has gathered us together in his name.  
Mindful of our rich baptismal heritage and Christian vocation,  
let us call to mind the needs of our world, Church and our  
local community.

#### Intentions

We pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all bishops,  
clergy, religious and lay faithful: that through their words and  
witness they will show all peoples of the earth how to love  
both God and neighbour. We pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord hear our prayer**



We pray for all communities during the Holy See's Season of Creation (1 Sept – 4 Oct). That all peoples will increasingly show respect for God's creation, particularly the vital atmosphere, bountiful earth and life-giving waterways that women, men and children enjoy. We pray to the Lord.

### **R. Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for all communities dealing with the global pandemic: that their leaders in government, health care and scientific research 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 who seek reconciliation with God, family or neighbour. That they will place their confidence and trust in God's infinite mercy and seek paths that lead to true healing. We pray to the Lord.

### **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 God of all creation, we ask you to hear the prayers we make in union with your Son, Our Lord Jesus 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.

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,  
whom you nourish and endow with life  
through the spiritual communion with your Word and  
heavenly Sacrament,  
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts  
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**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.

Translation by Catholic News Service