



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (4 October 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.

Revisit Last Week's Migrants and Refugees Sunday themed "Like Jesus Christ, Forced to Flee". Access a kit and resources from the [Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office](#)

## 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.

Almighty ever-living God,  
who in the abundance of your kindness  
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,  
pour out your mercy upon us  
to pardon what conscience dreads  
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.  
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 5:1–7 (JB)

***The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.***

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Let me sing to my friend  
the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend has a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.  
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,  
and planted choice vines in it.  
In the middle he built a tower,  
he dug a press there too.  
He expected it to yield grapes,  
but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,  
I ask you to judge  
between my vineyard and me.  
What could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
I expected it to yield grapes.  
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.  
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;  
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.  
I will command the clouds  
to rain no rain on it.  
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the House of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
that chosen plant.  
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,  
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 79:9, 12–16, 19–20 (JB)

- R.** The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.
1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**
  2. Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**
  3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**
  4. And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Philippians 4:6–9 (JB)

**Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.**

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

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf John 15:15 (JB)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Matthew 21:33–43 (JB)

**He leased his vineyard to other farmers.**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing  
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

**SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION**

**WHY, O GOD?**

When tragedy strikes a community it always takes time before the people can begin to understand something of why it happened and perhaps derive some lessons for the future. In the immediate aftermath, such thinking is impossible. Traumatized, shocked and heartbroken, they can only cry out, 'Why?'

This cry was never far from the lips of the struggling Jewish people. The Book of Psalms contains more than 50 laments in which individuals and communities cry out to God in distress. The troubles they voice are many and varied: sickness, military defeat, poverty, injustice, ridicule, loneliness. The emotions they express cover the full gamut: anger, hatred, sorrow, puzzlement, shock, longing. Often God is the object of the people's reproach.

Today's responsorial psalm is a classic lament. Israel, the beautiful vine planted and nurtured by God, has been destroyed in battle. In shock, the people lay the blame squarely on God: 'Why have you broken down our walls? Why did you turn your back and allow our enemies to trample over us?' Later, prophets like Isaiah will explain God's action. For now the people can only ask 'why?' and beg God to turn back to them.

When we are struck by tragedy, we should take our grief directly to God. Lament is a healthy prayer in which the evils that beset us are brought into the open in an honest and courageous manner. If we can but call upon God's name, life will come to us in the midst of sorrow.

**Michael Goonan SSP**

**LET YOUR FACE SHINE ON US**

Three of our four readings today use a famous biblical image, that of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord, to reflect on the relationship between God and Israel.

Isaiah presents an imagined court case between God and God's people. The prophet proposes that God sues Israel for failing to deliver its side of a covenant, when it does not produce sweet grapes in due time. In very dramatic style, God is first counsel for the prosecution against Israel and then judge. God's judgement is grave; the failed vineyard will be completely destroyed.

However, the psalm appeals against God's judgement. It reminds God of the loving effort God made to bring the vine out of Egypt, and to settle it in the land of Canaan. Promising that the people will never forsake God again, the Psalm appeals to God's creative side: 'protect your vine, let your face shine on us ...'

Jesus then tells a parable that focuses on the tenants of the vineyard. The tenants rapidly resort to violence and then murder to defraud the landowner of his rightful income from his vineyard. Jesus' listeners deliver the moral of the story, which is as violent as the behaviour of the tenants, betraying much about Jesus' audience. Jesus responds to their interpretation with the image of the most unlikely stone being chosen to be the one on which the whole building is aligned. Both images here refer to Jesus, the beloved son of God, God's chosen cornerstone.

Finally, Paul exhorts us to be formed on this cornerstone — Christ, in whom we have peace.

**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

St Paul encourages us to pray to God when we are in need.  
Inspired by his words, let us pray for all who are in need in our  
world, Church and parish community.

#### Intentions

We pray for the servant of the servants of God, Pope Francis,  
and all bishops, clergy, religious and lay faithful that work in  
the Lord's vineyard: that they will always strive to produce the  
fruits of God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer**



We pray for all who desire peace between countries, political parties, racial groups, religious and faith communities and the rich and poor: that they will be led by the Holy Spirit to make peace in their lives. We pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for all who work the land and harvest the waterways and oceans: that they will always follow the inspiration of St Francis of Assisi and work in harmony with nature and protect God's gift of creation. We pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for all communities dealing with the COVID-19 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 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 isolation, 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, following the example of your Son, we place our petitions before you this day, confident in your mercy and love. We make these prayers 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.

Grant us, almighty God,  
that we may be refreshed and nourished  
by our spiritual communion with your Sacrament,  
so as to be transformed into your likeness.  
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**

## 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