



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (11 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.

Today is the beginning of Carer's Week. Visit the Conference's social media or [Disability Office webpage](#) to access a kit and other resources.

## 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.

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,  
at all times go before us and follow after  
and make us always determined  
to carry out good works.  
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 25:6–10 (JB)

***The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.***

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

On this mountain,  
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples  
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,  
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.  
On this mountain he will remove  
the mourning veil covering all peoples,  
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,  
he will destroy Death for ever.  
The Lord will wipe away  
the tears from every cheek;  
he will take away his people's shame  
everywhere on earth,  
for the Lord has said so.  
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God  
in whom we hoped for salvation;  
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.  
We exult and we rejoice  
that he has saved us;  
for the hand of the Lord  
rests on this mountain.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22 (JB)

**R.** I shall live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

**R.**

2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name,  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

**R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

**R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

**R.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20  
(JB)

***I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.***

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

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere; full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ephesians 1:17, 18 (JB)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our heart  
that we might see how great is the hope  
to which we are called.

**Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1–14 (JB)

***Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.***

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son’s wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. “Tell those who have been invited,” he said, “that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding.” But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, “The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding.” So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, “How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?” And the man was silent.

Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

**YOU HAVE PREPARED A BANQUET FOR ME**

We do not always recognise that the much loved Psalm 23(22) contains two images of God – that of shepherd (verses 1 to 4) and that of banquet host (verses 5 and 6). The psalm is included in today’s liturgy on account of the latter image.

In this trustful psalm the images of shepherd and banquet host converge to stress that God protects us and meets all our needs. The shepherd guides us as we walk through dark valleys. As we eat our meal in the sight of our foes, the banquet host watches over us.

Because God is our shepherd there is nothing we shall want on our way. Because God is our banquet host nothing will be lacking at the feast. Indeed, our cups will be filled to overflowing.

In a gesture that is particularly touching, though unusual for many of us, the banquet host anoints the guests with oil. In the ancient world this action was intended to refresh the guests and honour them. It expressed the delight of the host in the guest’s presence at the banquet.

The life of each of us is a journey along challenging paths. Psalm 23(22) assures us that the Lord, our shepherd, is with us every step of the way. Life also has its joyous moments when we are called to pause and celebrate. Today’s liturgy urges us not to be so caught up in the challenges of the journey that we fail to respond when God, the gracious and generous host, invites us pause, to sit down and enjoy the banquet prepared for us.

**Michael Goonan SSP**

**FOR ALL PEOPLES A BANQUET**

In the Scriptures today, God’s abundant love for us is celebrated in passages that give us some of the richest images of our tradition.

We first hear two pieces of poetry from the Old Testament. Isaiah is easy to follow: with grief and shame gone, God feasts all human beings with the best of food and wine. It is poetry that works even in translation, a joy to hear. Similarly, the psalm is one we love, singing of God as shepherd guiding us to restful waters and to green pasture. There is even an element of triumph: God prepares this banquet for me to eat, while my enemies watch!

Paul uses related images of being satisfied and of being hungry to express his trust that God will always care for him. Paul promises the Philippians that in return for their generosity to him, God will lavishly meet all their needs.

In the Gospel, Jesus turns the Jewish imagery of banquet to a new form in a parable. The elaborate story is really an opportunity for Matthew to use the words ‘invited’ and ‘called’ many times, so as to make a pun on them in the final line. The pun works in the original Greek of Matthew’s Gospel, to make a contrast between a form of ‘called’ and a similar sounding word, ‘chosen.’ Literally, in Matthew’s story, many people are invited or ‘called’ to the banquet, but only few really belong there or are ‘chosen.’ How to be ‘chosen’? The answer is to desire to celebrate the banquet of God’s love with Jesus.

**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

The God of abundant life invites us this day to the banquet of life. As we respond, let us call to mind all those who are in need of our prayer on the way.

### Intentions

We pray for Pope Francis, and all bishops, clergy, religious and lay faithful: that their preaching and pastoral ministry will increasingly attract all to fullness of life now and in God's reign. We pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer**



We pray for all who experience physical or spiritual hunger: that the love and support of Christians and all your people will nourish and sustain their lives. 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 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 those God invites to live life more fully, whatever their social status: that they will respond with open hearts and a desire to use their gifts in service of others. 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**

God of abundant life and love, you invite us to share the fruits of your bounty. As we reflect on your word, help us always to be mindful of those in need of your providence. We ask this 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.

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord,  
that, as you nourish us with your word  
and communion with your sacrament  
which comes from your Son,  
you may make us sharers of his divine nature.  
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

# 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