



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (25 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 World Mission Sunday. Visit the [Catholic Mission](#) website to find out how you can provide help to Missionaries all around the world.

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,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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

Exodus 22:20–26 (JB)

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”’

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 17:2–4, 47, 51 (JB)

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:5–10 (JB)

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

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

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread — and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 14:23 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 22:34–40 (JB)

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

GOD, THE WARRIOR

The Scriptures offer a profound and multi-faceted revelation of God. In different situations God is revealed as judge, as saviour, as servant, as creator, as father, as mother, as lover, etc. One of the most powerful images we find, especially in the book of Exodus, is of God as a warrior who frees the Israelites from slavery by slaying their enemies.

Clearly God — the warrior — is not one to ignore. The Israelites would not have treated lightly Yahweh's threat to kill them with the sword if they molested or oppressed the stranger in their midst or treated widows and orphans harshly.

This warrior God is praised in today's responsorial psalm. The Scriptures put this psalm on the lips of David after the Lord had rescued him from the clutches of his enemies. Using military images, David praises the Lord for being his fortress, his shield, his stronghold and his mighty strength against his foes.

The image of God as a warrior may disturb some people. We need to see that what motivates Yahweh to be a warrior is a deep love for those who are oppressed. Loving parents will do anything to protect their vulnerable children and so also will Yahweh.

We cannot love this God without also loving God's people. Not to love our neighbour is to put ourselves at enmity with God. Today's first reading urges us not to adopt a narrow definition of neighbour. The stranger in our midst will always be the object of the special love of our warrior God.

Michael Goonan SSP

LOVING MY GOD, MY NEIGHBOUR AND MYSELF

Today, the readings teach us that we are called to love all in our lives. We are called to love God, by loving our neighbour as we love ourselves.

The book of Exodus commands us to respect all people, resisting the opportunity to exploit people who are vulnerable. God is their special champion. Anybody abusing such people will have God to answer to. We are all vulnerable; so we gladly sing today's psalm refrain, 'I love you, Lord my strength.'

As he writes to the new Christians at Thessalonika, Paul uses the language of modelling and imitation, which was the language of education in the ancient world. Turning from the pagan gods to worship Jesus, new Christians needed good models to imitate. Paul, teacher and model for the Thessalonians, praises them for having become models that other new Christians can follow.

In today's Gospel, some Pharisees attempt again to trick Jesus. To an 'impossible' question — 'What is the greatest commandment of the law?' — Jesus responds, wonderfully. He quotes a treasured portion of the Hebrew Scriptures that commands us to love God. Then Jesus authoritatively changes the terms of the question he was asked, exposing that it was inadequate. The greatest and first commandment has a companion commandment, also from the Scriptures, that insists that we love our neighbour as ourselves. These two commandments sum up the two major groups of the Hebrew Scriptures. To his enemies, Jesus preaches that loving God means loving others, which requires first that we truly love ourselves.

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

Inspired by the Lord who is our strength, our fortress and our saviour, let us bring our intentions before him for the needs of our Church and our world.

Intentions

We pray for all members of the Church as they seek to preach and practise the commandments of Christ to love both God and neighbour: that they will be faithful to their calling. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer



We pray for all leaders of government: that they will always promote religious freedom that respects the rights of peoples to publicly worship God. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all who grieve the loss of parents or children: that their cries for consolation and justice will be heard. 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 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, we ask you to hear the prayers we bring to you this day out of love for you and our neighbour. 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.

May your word, O Lord, we pray,
help us to grow in faith,
so that what we now commemorate in prayer
we may one day possess in truth.
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.

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