

PRAYER *of* HEALING & PETITION

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

A Prayer Resource for Days of Fasting and Reparation

between 14-17 February 2018 following the

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

BEGIN *the prayer by creating space,
lighting a candle, and playing some
reflective music or singing a song together.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Lord Jesus,
you turned and looked on Peter
when he denied you for the third time.
He wept for his sin
and turned again to you
in sincere repentance.
Look now on us and touch our hearts,
so that we also may turn back to you
and be always faithful in serving,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.
All: Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 49:8-15

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I have given you as covenant of the people to
establish the land.*

Thus says the Lord:

At the favourable time I will answer you,
on the day of salvation I will help you.

(I have formed you and have appointed
you as covenant of the people.)

I will restore the land
and assign you the estates that lie waste.
I will say to the prisoners, "Come out",
to those who are in darkness,
"Show yourselves."

On every roadway they will graze,
and each bare height shall be their
pasture. They will never hunger or thirst,



scorching wind and sun shall never plague them; for he who pities them will lead them and guide them to springs of water.

I will make a highway of all the mountains, and the high roads shall be banked up.

Some are on their way from afar, others from the north and the west, others from the land of Sinim.

Shout for joy, you heavens;
exult, you earth!
You mountains, break into happy cries!
For the Lord consoles his people
and takes pity on those who are afflicted.

For Zion was saying,
“The Lord has abandoned me,
the Lord has forgotten me.”

Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb?

Yet even if these forget,
I will never forget you.
The word of the Lord.

~ Silence ~

Meditation with Psalm 140

Leader: Let us pray for pardon and peace, and for protection at this time.

Antiphon: Like burning incense, O Lord, let my prayer rise up to you.

I have called to you, LORD;
hasten to help me!
Hear my voice when I cry to you.

*Let my prayer be accepted
as incense before you,
the raising of my hands
like an evening oblation.*

Set, O LORD, a guard on my mouth;
keep watch at the door of my lips!

*Do not turn my heart to things that are evil,
to wicked deeds with those who are sinners.
Never allow me to share in their feasting.*

If a good man strikes me it is kindness;
but let the oil of the wicked

not anoint my head.
Let my prayer
be ever against their malice.

*If they fall into the merciless hands
of their judges,
they will grasp how kind are my words.*

As clods of earth
ploughed up on the ground,
so their bones were strewn
at the mouth of the grave.

*To you my eyes are turned,
O LORD, my LORD.
In you I take refuge; spare my soul!*

From the trap they have laid for me,
keep me safe;
keep me from the snares
of those who do evil.

*Let the wicked together
fall into their traps,
while I pursue my way unharmed.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Antiphon: Like burning incense, O Lord, let my prayer rise up to you.

~ Silence ~

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

*A period of silence should be included so
that each person may personally examine
his/her conscience.*

During this time of prayer and penance for victims of sexual abuse, what personal attitudes do I need to change as a member of the Church faithful to the Gospel?

~ Silence ~

During this time of prayer and penance for victims of sexual abuse, what individual or communal actions do I/we need to change?

~ Silence ~

During this time of prayer and penance for victims of sexual abuse, what resolutions do I/we need to make in the future?

~ Silence ~

ACT OF REPENTANCE

Leader:

My brothers and sisters,
Let us turn to God who is compassionate and merciful, and repent of our own sins and the sins of the Church.

All pray Psalm 51 together...

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

*My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.*

That you may be justified
when you give sentence
and be without reproach when you judge,
O see, in guilt I was born,
a sinner was I conceived.

*Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart
teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.*

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,
that the bones you have crushed may
revive. From my sins turn away your face
and blot out all my guilt.

*A pure heart create for me, O God, put a
steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.*

Give me again the joy of your help; with a
spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you.

*O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.*

For in sacrifice you take no delight,
burnt offering from me you would refuse,
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.
A humbled, contrite heart
you will not spurn.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Leader: Lord, your sons and daughters
stand before you In humility and trust.
Look with compassion on us
as we confess our sins.
Heal our wounds;
stretch out a hand of mercy
to save us and raise us up.
Keep us free from harm
as members of Christ's body,
as sheep of your flock,
as children of your family.

Hear, Lord, the prayers we offer
from contrite hearts.
Have pity on us
as we acknowledge our sins.
Lead us back to the way of holiness.
Protect us now and always
from the wounds of sin.
May we ever keep safe in all its fullness
the gift your love once gave us
and your mercy now restores.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever.
All: Amen

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

All pray together:

Gracious and loving Father,
Since your mercy has been revealed
in the tenderness of your Son Jesus Christ,
who said to his disciples:
"Let the little children come to me",

we pray that your Church
may be a secure home
where all children
and vulnerable adults
are brought closer to your Beloved Son.

May all those who have been abused
physically, emotionally and sexually by
your ministers
be respected and accompanied
by tangible gestures
of justice and reparation
so that they may feel healed
with the balm of your compassion.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

~ *Silence* ~

PRAYERS OF PETITION

We pray for all victims of sexual abuse:
that they may experience truth, justice
and healing in their lives.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all families of victims of
sexual abuse: that they may be comforted
by the support of the Church and all your
people. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our communities where
sexual abuse has occurred: that all those
in positions of responsibility in relation to
children will accord them the honour and
respect to which they are entitled.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all members of society: that
they will honour human sexuality and
treat all people with respect and decency.
Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

OUR FATHER

Leader: Let us unite our petitions with the
prayer that Jesus taught us...

SIGN OF PEACE

Leader:
Before we conclude, let us take a moment
to offer each other a sign of peace.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Leader:
Lord God,
strength of those who hope in you,
support us in our fervent prayer
for all victims of sexual abuse
and their families.
Because we are weak
and can do nothing without you,
grant us always the help of your grace
so that, in fulfilling your commandments,
we may please you
in all we desire and do
to help those in need of our care.
Through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Leader:
May God bless and keep us.
May God's face shine on us.
May God be kind to us and give us peace.
All: Amen.

*A suitable hymn may be sung or played,
such as A New Heart for A New World
(Monica Brown) or A Hymn of Healing for
the Church (Br Michael Herry).*

Copyright Acknowledgments

Excerpts from *The Rite of Penance* © 1975 ICEL. All
rights reserved. Excerpts from *The Divine Office* © 1974
Hierarchies of Australia, England and Wales, Ireland.
Excerpts from the *Jerusalem Bible* © 1966, 1967, 1968,
Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Co.
Inc. Reproduced by permission of the publishers.
Format and design frick.com / stpaulsparish.org.au

