



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (18 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 Carer's Week. Visit the Conference's social media or [Disability Office webpage](#) to access a kit with prayers 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.

Almighty ever-living God,  
grant that we may always conform our will to yours  
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.

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 45:1, 4–6 (JB)

***I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations  
before his countenance.***

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whom he has taken by his right hand  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip the loins of kings,  
to force gateways before him  
that their gates be closed no more:  
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,  
of Israel my chosen one,  
that I have called you by your name,  
conferring a title though you do not know me.  
I am the Lord, unrivalled;  
there is no other God besides me.  
Though you do not know me, I arm you  
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun  
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1, 3–5, 7–10 (JB)

**R.** Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple,  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king,'  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

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

**We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.**

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

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

*The word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Philippians 2:15–16  
(JB)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15–21 (JB)

**Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he replied, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar — and to God what belongs to God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

**SERVING GOD THROUGH CAESAR**

In the ancient world it was not uncommon for rulers to describe themselves as gods, claiming to have certain divine powers and qualities. The people of Israel would never allow their rulers to be called gods. There is only one God, the Lord. Their faith is expressed in today's psalm: 'The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods (pagan rulers). The gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens.'

The people of Israel were, however, tolerant of pagan rulers calling themselves gods. They saw these rulers as having a subordinate role in God's governance of the world. Through them, God's will could be accomplished among the peoples. A good example was Cyrus, the Persian king mentioned in today's first reading, whom the Jews saw as God's chosen instrument to liberate them from their exile in Babylon.

In our own day the leaders of nations have the power to effect good and promote the values of the kingdom of God. Not all leaders do this, but there are many who exercise wise and just leadership. There need not be an unbridgeable gulf between civil governance and the governance of God. In fulfilling our obligations toward the State, we can in fact be promoting the values of the kingdom of God. Respecting legitimate temporal authority is one means of paying homage to God, the only One to whom all praise and honour are due.

**Michael Goonan SSP**

**SING TO THE LORD OF ALL THE EARTH**

Power is a theme that runs through today's readings.

The prophet Isaiah portrays God speaking to one of the great pagan kings of ancient history: Cyrus. God declares Cyrus to be an anointed servant of God, achieving God's purposes. God's entire purpose is that through Cyrus, God may be known as the only God there is.

Paul encourages the Christians in Thessalonika because from the first they accepted Paul's preaching not as mere words, but as power, but a very different kind of power from that exercised by Cyrus. It is open to God's Holy Spirit and to faith.

In Matthew's story of Jesus, we see a power play that Jesus wins. A group of Pharisees and some associates of King Herod try to trap Jesus in his talk. Their trap: should we pay taxes to the pagan Caesar or not?

Jesus springs a trap in reply. Two very important points in his response are unspoken, but would have been understood then. First, in the ancient world, the image on a coin meant that in a sense that coin belonged to the person pictured there. Since the tax-paying coin has Caesar's head on it, taxes can properly be paid to the loathed Romans. The second point is that human beings are made in the image of God, so what is owed to God is human worship – even if the Romans don't like it. Matthew concludes his story, 'They were amazed; and they left him and went away.' The real power of Jesus has the last word.

**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

Strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit let us unite our faith, hope and love in God as we recall the needs of all God's creation.

### Intentions

We pray for all members of the Church as they seek to live out their baptismal mission to know, love and serve God and his creation: that their living and preaching of the Gospel will radiate God's truth, goodness and beauty to all people. We pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer**



We pray for all who work for justice for those who are the underprivileged and the victims of crime in society: that their prophetic witness and example will lead to peace and inspire others to follow their example. We pray to the Lord.

**R. Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for all governments and their peoples: that they will discern their obligations to both God and society as they seek to live and work with peace and prosperity. 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**

Almighty and ever-living God, merciful judge of the living and the dead, we ask you to hear the prayers we bring this day with mercy and compassion. 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.

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,  
we may be helped by what you give in this present age  
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.  
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

# 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