



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

Liturgy of Lament

Diocese of Broken Bay

September 2021



Image: Michael Galovic

The Patroness of the Diocese of Broken Bay, Mary Star of the Sea

received its official decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in May 2008. Star of the Sea is an ancient title for the Mother of Jesus Christ and comes down to us from the Latin Stella Maris. Under this title, Mary intercedes as both guide and protector for all those who travel or seek their livelihoods on or by the sea. As a faith community whose borders skirt both the Pacific Ocean and the Brisbane Waters, Mary is our guiding star and the model of discipleship as the mother of the Church.

Blessing

If the waves of hopelessness break on you, and you run aground with troubles, look to this star, call upon Mary!

If you are tossed by the winds of pride or ambition or jealousy, look to this star, call upon Mary!

If anger or greed or pain of any form bounces you against the boat of your mind, look to Mary!

In dangers, in times of confusion, think of Mary, call upon Mary!

Keep your eyes fixed on the glow of this star!



Introduction

Acknowledgement to Survivors

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and adults at risk, and the consequent breach of community trust.

Invocation

We have come here from many places,
From east and west, north and south,
From pain and disillusionment,
From anger and confusion,
From sadness looking for hope.
We come together to listen,
To raise our hearts and voices to God,
In the hope that the very act of raising them in lament yet in faith,
They may be touched in their brokenness
And know the transforming and surpassing power of God's love.



Hymn – Voice of the Victims *(Tune from Be Thou my Vision)*

When no one would listen, the Lord lent an ear;
When I was hurt, helpless, the Lord drew me near.
When justice was wanting, the angels came round
And lent me their shoulders, their wings and their crowns.

When I lay there trembling, my faith gone away
The Lord came and rescued, my spirit He saved.
He whispered a wonder that carried me clear,
Restored my creation, my innocence dear.

Our shepherds unfeeling, uncaring, remote.
Unmoved by our suffering years without hope.
The Might of our Father in heaven unleashed,
He shook the church soundly and banished its sleep.

My anger grows righteous, it wakens my soul.
It moves God to root out and vanquish my foes.
A Pillar of Fire sent from God for a light
To scatter the darkness, no sin hid from sight.

No longer a haven for wolves among sheep
Where victims were trampled, their sorrows to keep.
A welcoming church filled with mercy and love
No room for abusers, new hope from above.

My Rock, my Strong Fortress, my Armor, my Shield
Protect all Your children and help them to heal.
Keep safe all Your treasures, the faith that is true.
Confound all the wicked and guide us to You.

from A Service for Victims by Stephen, a victim of clergy abuse
Stephen Trunk June 11, 2002

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Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:

You gave your only Son
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.

Console their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.

Forgive us for the times when as members of the Catholic Church we have failed to
accompany our sisters and brothers through their pain of harm.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.

Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.

Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labours.

Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 1: 3 – 7

Homily



Lament Action

We gaze at our unlit candle – the potential of its light within our reach, and yet the light is not seen. The same can be said about a night sky without stars, the wonder of their light hidden from our eye by clouds.

How often has the light of truth been hidden from sight?

Litany of Lament

Sung Response – ‘Hear our voice O God’

Unable to forget the violation done to us, we cry...**R.**

Still bearing the marks of our wounds, we cry...**R.**

Struggling to overcome our fears, we cry...**R.**

Mourning our loss of innocence, we cry...**R.**

Not knowing where to turn in our misery and isolation, we cry...**R.**

Wondering how your grace permitted this, we cry...**R.**

Bowed down by the weakness of human frailty, we cry...**R.**

Longing for families who can bear our truths with us, we cry...**R.**

Looking for justice where none seems possible, we cry...**R.**

Searching for the kind of faith that once sustained us all, we cry...**R.**

Covered in shame and confusion, wanting to stand safe and secure again, we cry...**R.**

Hoping for kindness and truth to meet, justice and peace to kiss, we cry...**R.**

Desperate for the courage to face our own demons, we cry...**R.**

Wanting to put all this behind us and live in wholeness, we cry...**R.**

Outraged by the actions of those who should have known better, we cry...**R.**

Bearing with one another the burdens of our own and not of our own making, we cry...**R.**

Lost, looking for your guidance and direction, we cry...**R.**

Amidst the shattered images of godliness and ministry, we cry...**R.**

Out of darkness of our despair, we cry...**R.**

Into the cloud of our unknowing, we cry...**R.**

Not even knowing how to help each other or where to go from here, we cry...**R.**

Having a Voice

Read with permission. Written by Jane Dowling, from her book Come Forward! Bold enough to heal. A spiritual handbook for survivors of sexual abuse using scripture, visualization and art therapy (2019) page 96 -97.

Healing action

When truth becomes known, the light begins to dispel the darkness.

When and if you feel called to do so, we invite you to light your candle. Watch as the flame brings light and warmth to your space, revealing that which was previous hidden. Just as when the clouds separate to allow the stars to be seen, gently illuminating, and guiding our world.

Hymn – On Eagle’s Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in His shadow for life,
say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”

And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear:
under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.

And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of His hand.

You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of His hand.

For to His angels He’s given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of His hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm...
of his hand.

By Michael Joncas

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Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Blessing Action

As we conclude, I invite you, if you feel safe to do so, to blow out your candle. Perhaps you could move to a space where you can glimpse the natural light of creation whether that is the sunlight or light from the stars and moon.

Look to heaven and together, as one community we can find strength, love and hope in the One whom always provides light, guidance and safety, despite the obstacles that may be placed before us.

Contacts

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Office for Safeguarding (CatholicCare), **P** 9481 2683 **E** safeguardingincidents@catholiccaredbb.org.au

Resources

Lifeline: **W** lifeline.org.au **P** 13 11 14

Beyond Blue: **W** beyondblue.org.au **P** 1300 224 636

Bravehearts: **W** bravehearts.org.au **E** bisl@bravehearts.org.au **P** 1800 272 831

Child Protection Helpline: **P** 132 111

Kids Helpline: **P** 1800 55 1800

Knowmore: **W** knowmore.org.au **E** info@knowmore.org.au **P** 1800 605 762

National Redress Scheme: **W** nationalredress.gov.au **P** 1800 737 377

NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission: **P** 1800 035 544

1800 Respect: **W** 1800respect.org.au **P** 1800 737 732

Survivors & Mates Support Network: **W** samsn.com.au **E** support@samsn.org.au **P** 1800 472 676