
Prayers of the Faithful:

Suggested Petitions for inclusion during the course of the Royal Commission

Note: At regular parish Sunday Masses it may be appropriate to add only one prayer each week to the other intercessions at the Prayers of the Faithful, e.g. use prayer "A." one week, "B" the following week, etc. At special masses dedicated to prayer for the victims of abuse, and at Holy Hours or Penitential Services it would be appropriate to utilise the whole of one of these sets of petitions.

Set 1

- A. For those whose lives are beset by the enduring and painful memory of sexual abuse and physical violence: May their families, friends and supporters renew their trust and security in loving relationships. May all members of the Church be instruments of healing. Lord, hear us...
- B. For the Catholic Church in Australia, especially for our bishops and leaders of religious congregations and institutes: May their words and gestures acknowledge repentance for past failures in responding to child sexual abuse and bring comfort and reconciliation to victims. Lord, hear us...
- C. For the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: May its processes and its legacy acknowledge truth, bring healing and support our nation in ensuring the safety of all children. Lord, hear us...
- D. For the children of our land: May all families, institutions and social settings work together, to ensure the happiness of every child and create an environment of safety and protection where children may flourish. Lord, hear us...

Set 2:

- A. For the success of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: That victims may have a just hearing, that processes within institutions may be thoroughly scrutinised, and that all in our society might come to better understand the problem of abuse and find ways to protect children from it. Let us pray to the Lord.
- B. For justice and healing for the victims of child sexual abuse by clergy, religious and lay workers. May we all work together to make our churches, schools and families havens of safety and respect for the young and the vulnerable. Let us pray to the Lord.
- C. For wisdom and compassion in our leaders and those who have care for the young: that they will do all in their power to protect children from any form of abuse. Let us pray to the Lord.
- D. For repentance by those who have perpetrated the sins and crimes of the sexual abuse of children, and for justice and truth to shed light where there is darkness. Let us pray to the Lord.
- E. For the grace of renewal for all those people whose Christian faith and hope have been bruised by the scandal of clergy sex abuse. Let us pray to the Lord.
- F. For the safety of all young people entrusted to the care of parents, carers, teachers and pastoral workers, and for healing and consolation of all affected by the sexual abuse of children. Let us pray to the Lord.

Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

A. Simple Form

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed by placing the ciborium on the altar between two or more candles and incense may be used but is not mandatory.

B. Solemn Form

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the monstrance, therefore at least four candles are lit at the altar, and incense must be used.

EXPOSITION

A suitable hymn may be sung while the minister comes to the altar.

A brief greeting and introduction to the Holy Hour can be given.

The minister then opens the tabernacle and places the ciborium on the altar, or he places the Host in the monstrance and incenses it. As he does so, a suitable hymn is sung.

If the Holy Eucharist is not reserved at the altar where the exposition is to take place, the minister puts on a humeral veil and brings the sacrament from the place of reservation.

ADORATION

Silent prayer for a few minutes

Reading from Scripture:

The following are some possible choices for Scripture Readings:

Joel 2.12-18 – see Lectionary Volume I p187: Ash Wednesday, First Reading

Or

Isaiah 49.8-16 – see Lectionary Volume I p288: Fourth Week of Lent, Wednesday, First Reading

And/or

Mark 10.13-16 – See Lectionary Volume III p40: Christian Initiation, Gospel option 4.

Homily

Silent prayer

Prayers of Intercession *See sample prayers above*

Then the following prayer might then be recited:

Prayer for the Healing of Victims of Abuse

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 our cries as we agonize
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
soothe restless hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice
and find peace in you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer: U.S. Bishops Conference)

Then the "Hail, Holy Queen" may be recited.

BENEDICTION

A suitable Eucharistic hymn is sung. During this, if the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the monstrance, the minister incenses it. Afterwards the minister rises and sings or says one of the usual prayers before Benediction given in the Rite of Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass, e.g.:

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

After the prayer the priest or deacon puts on the humeral veil, genuflects, and takes the ciborium. He makes the sign of the cross over the people with the ciborium in silence.

The Divine Praises might then be said or sung.

The minister replaces the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. Meanwhile a suitable song may be sung, and the minister then leaves.

Penitential Celebration

(Based on those found in Appendix II to the Rite of Penance)

Entrance Song and Greeting

After an appropriate song and the greeting by the minister, the theme of the celebration is explained to the community. Then he invites all to pray. After a period of silence, he says:

Almighty God, you are the Father of us all. You created the human family to dwell for ever with you and to praise your glory.

You have called us into your Church, the mystical Body of your Son, and yet we have sinned against you and wounded the Body of Christ by our sins.

We lament the failings of those who minister in your name which has caused such hurt to the innocent.

Open our ears to hear your voice and our eyes to see your image in those who are bruised and wounded by sexual abuse.

Restore your Body and all its members by your healing love, so that those who have been broken may find wholeness again and your children may be a light to the world.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

READINGS

The following are some possible choices for Scripture Readings:

First Reading

Joel 2.12-18 – *see Lectionary Volume I p187: Ash Wednesday, First Reading*

Or

Isaiah 49.8-16 – *see Lectionary Volume I p288: Fourth Week of Lent, Wednesday, First Reading*

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 50.3-4, 12-13, 17, 19. - *see Lectionary Volume I p209, First Week of Lent.*

Second Reading

1 John 1.5-2.2 – *see Lectionary Volume I p128, The Holy Innocents.*

Gospel Reading

Luke 15.1-3, 11-32 - see *Lectionary Volume I p237, Second week of Lent, Saturday.*

Other suitable readings from Scripture may be chosen instead.

Homily

Examination of Conscience

A period of silence is included so that each person may examine his or her conscience.

Act of Repentance

After the examination of conscience, the presiding minister invites all to pray:

Our God is a God of mercy, slow to anger and full of patience. He is the Father who welcomes his son when he returns from a distant country. Let us pray to him with trust in his goodness:

Response: We are not worthy to be called your children.

- By our misuse of your gifts we have sinned against you. *Response.*
- By straying from your mind and heart we have sinned against you. *Response.*
- By forgetting your love we have sinned against you. *Response.*
- By protecting ourselves while neglecting to protect the vulnerable and the hurting we have sinned against you. *Response.*
- By failing to help our neighbour in his or her need we have sinned against you. *Response.*

All then pray:

Prayer for the Healing of Victims of Abuse

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 our cries as we agonize
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,
soothe restless hearts with hope,
steady shaken spirits with faith:
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform our brokenness.
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,
so that we may act with justice
and find peace in you.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer: U.S. Bishops Conference)

Then the "Hail, Holy Queen" may be recited.

The minister continues:

Let us now call upon our Father in the words that Jesus gave us:

Our Father...

A suitable song might then be sung.

Final Prayer and Blessing

May the God of peace fill your hearts with every blessing. May he sustain you with his gifts of hope and consolation, help you to offer your lives in his service, and bring you safely to eternal glory.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.