

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland
DAY OF PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED ABUSE
Friday 24 February 2023

The Bishops of Scotland have established a Day of Prayer for those who have suffered abuse to be marked each year on the Friday following Ash Wednesday.

The following material is offered for use as a holy hour style "Service of Acknowledgment, Prayer and Reflection", although certain excerpts may also be used at Mass on 24 February.

At Mass the intercessions may be used. The Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation are also appropriate.

Some of the prayers and readings may also be suitable to be incorporated in a service of Stations of the Cross.

SERVICE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PRAYER AND REFLECTION

OPENING HYMN SUGGESTIONS

I will come to you in the silence
We cannot measure how you heal
Christ be beside me
Christ be our light
Be thou my vision

GREETING

We have come here
from pain and disillusionment,
from anger and confusion,
from sadness looking for hope.
We come together for one thing only:
to raise our hearts and voices and our very selves to God,
in the hope that the very act of raising them in
sorrow yet in faith,
they may be touched in their brokenness
and know the transforming and surpassing power of God's love.

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father,
as we gather today in solidarity with victims and survivors of abuse,
grant us forgiveness for our sins against them and against you.
May your Son walk beside us and enlighten our way
as we seek healing from the wounds inflicted on your innocent children.
May the presence of your Spirit among us bring renewal and courage.
Through Christ our Lord.

READING

(Lectionary volume 1, p 650)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

58:7-10

Then will your light shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,

clothe the man you see to be naked
and do not turn from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Lectionary volume 1, p 648)

Psalm 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

R. How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

(Or another suitable psalm may be sung.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5:12

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in heaven.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

(Lectionary volume 1, p 649)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

11:25-30

How happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

LITANY OF RENEWAL

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, I desire to be whole and holy:
From grasping at control, **deliver me Jesus.**
From the illusion of self reliance, **deliver me Jesus.**
From misplacing my gaze, **deliver me Jesus.**
From mistrusting your promises, **deliver me Jesus.**
From rewriting my hopes and desires, **deliver me Jesus.**
From pleading to see the full picture, **deliver me Jesus.**
From my blindness to your work, **deliver me Jesus.**
From forgetting your word, **deliver me Jesus.**
From doubting your goodness, **deliver me Jesus.**
From neglecting my relationship with you, **deliver me Jesus.**

To seek you in all things, **reform me Jesus.**
To love you above all else, **reform me Jesus.**
To honour you as my deepest desire, **reform me Jesus.**
To remain grounded in your truth, **reform me Jesus.**
To share my heart in prayer and believe that you care for me, **reform me Jesus.**
To trust in your timeline and accept your perfect plan, **reform me Jesus.**
To imitate your patient pace, **reform me Jesus.**
To live in your peace and joy, **reform me Jesus.**
To let my weakness be your strength, **reform me Jesus.**
To order my desires to be yours, **reform me Jesus.**
For my body to be revered as your temple, **reform me Jesus.**
For my mind to be fixed on all things above, **reform me Jesus.**
For my soul to be confident in your power, **reform me Jesus.**
For my heart to be assured of your presence, **reform me Jesus.**
For my whole person to be faithfully surrendered to You, **reform me Jesus.**

Our Lady of the Annunciation, **pray for us.**
St Raphael, **pray for us.**

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, **spare us, Lord.**
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, **graciously hear us.**
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

Let us pray, O God, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will safeguard the mission of the Church.
May wisdom guide the work of the Scottish Safeguarding Standards Agency,
may we understand the need for Christ's care for survivors,
may good counsel help put in place the right things to prevent abuse,
may we have fortitude to challenge any barriers to disclosing abuse,
may the People of God receive the knowledge to understand the importance of care for survivors
and their families,
may holy piety help us to rely on the Lord in our responsibility to keep people safe,
and may our wonder and awe before the Almighty help us see one another as images of God.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ROSARY

There may, at this point, be a decade of the Rosary following Pope Francis' request.

INTERCESSIONS

Presider:

Almighty and most loving God, through your Son you brought compassion, healing and hope to our world. In this time of pain and confusion, we ask you to receive these petitions from your people.

Reader:

For those who have been abused: that they may experience healing from shame, isolation, anger, and despair; that they may be listened to with compassion, treated with dignity, and supported in the healing process.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For those who counsel victims: that their words of wisdom and compassion may be instruments of healing for those they accompany.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For the perpetrators of abuse: that they may experience sincere remorse for their sins, approach God with sorrow, and be prepared to make reparation for the damage they have caused.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For the faithful: may they renew their commitment to the sacraments, to learn the faith, to participate in their parish communities, and to serve the poor and protect the vulnerable.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For all parents: that they may foster family life rooted in love, prayer, faith, and mercy.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

For young people discerning a religious vocation to priesthood or consecrated life: that the tragic failures of some may not blind them to the heroic virtue of many.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Presider:

May these prayers rise in your presence like incense O Lord,
as a symbol of our sorrow and contrition, our humility and penitence.

Renew us in spirit, strengthen us in hope, perfect us in love.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SIGN OF PEACE

SCOTTISH NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
we praise you for calling us to the service of others.

We pray for a generosity of spirit
to ensure the vulnerable are protected.

We pray for a compassionate heart
so that we will reach out to those who are wounded by abuse.

We pray for courage and determination
as we seek the safety of everyone in our parish communities.

We dedicate ourselves to this work of service
and pray that you will help us to do your will at all times and in all places. Amen.

BLESSING

May God bless you with every heavenly blessing,
make you always holy and pure in his sight,
pour out in abundance upon you the riches of his glory,
and teach you with the words of truth;
may he instruct you with the Gospel of salvation,
and ever endow you with fraternal charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R. Amen.

HYMN

A suitable hymn may be sung to conclude the celebration.

*Prepared by the Scottish National Liturgical Commission
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