

**Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Liturgical and Prayer Resources for Days of
Fasting and Reparation
following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse**

Lent 2018

**SAMPLE PRAYERS AND PENITENTIAL LITANY
FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

**PRAYERS FROM THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF
MINORS (alt.)**

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

Heavenly Father,
who loves and cares for all of your children,
especially the smallest and most vulnerable,
we entrust to you the lives of the many children and vulnerable adults,
who have been sexually abused,
and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.
Help us to hear their cries of pain
and to take responsibility for so many broken lives.
We pray that within their communities and families
they may find understanding and support

so that with the help of your grace their wounds may be healed,
and they may again know peace.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who shared our weakness in all things but sin, and
lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, for ever and ever,
Amen.

Source: <http://www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au> –
[These prayers were first published in www.protectionofminors.va](http://www.protectionofminors.va)

A LITANY OF REPARATION

Lord, have mercy · Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy · Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy · Lord, have mercy.

God, the Father of mercy, reconciling the world to yourself · Have mercy on us.

God the Son, mediator between God and humankind · Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, filling our hearts with love · Have mercy on us.

Eternal God, holy and undivided Trinity · Have mercy on us.

Be merciful to your people · Spare us, O Lord.

Forgive us our failings · Spare us, O Lord.

Restore us to life in you · Spare us, O Lord.

For a lack of reverence among Christians · We make reparation, O Lord.

For lukewarm faith · We make reparation, O Lord.

For coldness of heart · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sacrilege which profanes your holy name · We make reparation, O Lord.

For indifference of your call to change of heart · We make reparation, O Lord.

For contempt for your sacrifice of love · We make reparation, O Lord.

For fearful discipleship · We make reparation, O Lord.

For neglect of your gifts of grace · We make reparation, O Lord.

For tepid response to your ever-faithful love · We make reparation, O Lord.

For lack of generosity in your service · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin and its harmful compulsion · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin and its destructive potential · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin and its deathly power · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin that hurts children and the vulnerable · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin that steals innocence and disbelieves truth · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin that defiles the Temples of the Holy Spirit which are our bodies · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin that crushes spirits and breaks hearts · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin that is overlooked and disregarded · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin that is ignored and hidden away · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin that judges victims and excuses offenders · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin that is criminal · We make reparation, O Lord.

For sin that harms the Body of Christ the Church · We make reparation, O Lord.

Hear our supplication, Lord · And show us your compassion.

Restore us to your grace · And show us your compassion.

Forgive the failures of your people · And show us your compassion.

Pardon our Church which has sinned · And show us your compassion.

Accept this our act of reparation · And show us your compassion.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world · Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world · Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world · Grant us peace.

Let us pray.

Hear the humble prayer of your people, merciful God, as we implore your mercy. Forgive your Church for the wrong that has been committed and the harm that has been done.

Grant the grace of repentance to all who have broken sacred trust and abused your beloved children.

Bring healing to all who have suffered abuse and restore them to fullness of life.

Reconcile us to one another and never allow us be parted from you.

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your son, who has freed us from sin and death, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever · Amen.

A PRAYER FOR REPARATION

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 agonise
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.

(Source: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

A PRAYER IN SORROW

Lord, we are so sorry
For what some of us did to
your children: Treated them
so cruelly,
Especially in their hour of need.
We have left them with a
lifelong suffering. This was
not your plan for them or us.
Please help us to
help them. Guide
us, Lord, Amen.

(Source: 50th Eucharistic Congress, Dublin, 2012)