



Prayers for use at home

Days of Fasting and Reparation following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Opening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Introduction

Lord Jesus, you turned and looked on Peter when he denied you for the third time. He wept for his sin and turned again to you in sincere repentance.

Look now on us and touch our hearts, so that we also may turn back to you and be always faithful in serving, for you live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen

Scripture reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 49:8-15

I have given you as covenant of the people to establish the land.

Thus says the Lord:

At the favourable time I will answer you, on the day of salvation I will help you. (I have formed you and have appointed you as covenant of the people.)

I will restore the land and assign you the estates that lie waste. I will say to the prisoners, "Come out", to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves".

On every roadway they will graze, and each bare height shall be their pasture. They will never hunger or thirst, scorching wind and sun shall never plague them; for he who pities them will lead them and guide them to springs of water.

I will make a highway of all the mountains, and the high roads shall be banked up. Some are on their way from afar, others from the north and the west, others from the land of Sinim.

Shout for joy, you heavens; exult, you earth! You mountains, break into happy cries! For the Lord consoles his people and takes pity on those who are afflicted.

For Zion was saying, "The Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me." Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb?

Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

A prayer for healing

Gracious and loving 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

R. Amen.

Prayers of petition

We pray for all victims of sexual abuse: that they may experience truth, justice and healing in their lives. Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all families of victims of sexual abuse: that they may be comforted by the support of the Church and all your people. Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our communities where sexual abuse has occurred: that all those in positions of responsibility in relation to children will accord them the honour and respect to which they are entitled. Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all members of society: that they will honour human sexuality and treat all people with respect and decency. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Our Father

Let us unite our petitions with the prayer that Jesus taught us

Our Father...

Concluding prayer

Lord Jesus, our Saviour, you called Peter to be an apostle; when he repented of his sin, you restored him to your friendship and confirmed him as first of the apostles.

Turn to us with love and help us to imitate Peter's example. Give us strength to turn from our sins and to serve you in the future with greater love and devotion, for you live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

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