

## **Prayer of the Faithful During the Royal Commission December – January 2021**

These prayers are offered to parishes as suggestions for inclusion in the prayers of the faithful for the next few weeks.

### **3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY ADVENT**

We hear the cry of John the Baptist to make *straight the way of the Lord*.

Let us pray for those who have suffered abuse. Calm their restless hearts, grant them courage to disclose their pain, direct them to justice for their cause, and guide them to a place of joy and peace.

We pray: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

### **4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The angel said to Mary: *do not be afraid*. Let us pray for those working with victims of abuse; grant them listening hearts to the stories that need to be told, and instil courage in the victims not to fear.

We pray: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

### **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

For the work of justice sought through the Royal Commission; may our bishops, priests and faithful of Aotearoa New Zealand be enlightened by the truth revealed and given the grace to act with justice and restore wounded families.

We pray: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

### **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

The shepherds who found the Christ child proclaimed his presence to the world. Let us pray for the communities betrayed by those who abused; heal the wounds of all our people and keep our gaze on the Presence of Christ in our midst.

We pray: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

### **SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY**

For those who have suffered abuse, and all veiled in darkness. May the Light of Christ shine upon them, and may the Church protect the vulnerable from all forms of abuse or injustice.

We pray: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

### **FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Let us pray for those who have suffered abuse. May the Lord guide our response to the discoveries of the Royal Commission and ensure justice for those who have been harmed.

We pray: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

*Sourced from the Diocese of Christchurch November 2020.*