

**ACBC Day of Prayer and Penance  
for Victims of Sexual Abuse  
10 September 2017**

**EVENING PRAYER**

**Liturgical Note**

*The selection of texts that follow has been made so that the texts are appropriate for the ACBC Day of Prayer for Victims of Sexual Abuse on 10 September 2017 and also for Evening Prayer. Other appropriate texts might also be used. For pastoral reasons (e.g. the number of Masses and possibly Baptisms already planned for 10 September), this form of Evening Prayer could also be celebrated on another day in early September.*

**Introduction**

*(All stand)*

Presider: O God, come to our aid. *(All make the sign of the cross)*  
All: O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Alleluia

**Proclamation of the Light**

*(The paschal candle is lighted)*

Presider: Light and peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
All: Thanks be to God

**Evening Hymn:** O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ

1. O gracious light, Lord Jesus Christ  
in you the Father's glory shone.  
Immortal, holy, blest is he,  
and blest are you, his only Son.
2. Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,  
the lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son and Spirit: God  
who dwells in the eternal light.
3. Worthy are you of endless praise,  
O Son of God, life-giving Lord;  
wherefore you are through all the earth  
and in the highest heav'n adored.

Text: *Phos hilaron*, Greek 4<sup>th</sup> cent., trans. Francis Bland Tucker, 1895-1984;  
© The Church Pension Fund.  
Tune: JESU DULCIS MEMORIA or alt. 8.8.8.8 tune

**Evening Thanksgiving**

Presider: Let us give thanks to God our Father  
always and for ev'rything.

**All: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Cantor/

Reader:

Praise be the Lord our God,  
ruler of the universe,  
who led our ancestors in the faith  
by a pillar of cloud by day  
and a pillar of fire by night  
and prepared a lamp for his Anointed.  
Light up our darkness, O God, by the light of your Christ;  
may his word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path,  
for you are full of loving kindness for your whole creation  
and we, your creatures, glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **PSALMODY**

*(All sit)*

### **Psalm 140 (Incense Psalm)**

Presider: Let us pray for pardon and peace,  
and for protection throughout the coming night.

**Antiphon: Like burning incense, O Lord, let my prayer rise up to you.**

I have called to you, Lord; hasten to help me!  
Hear my voice when I cry to you.  
Let my prayer arise before you like incense,  
the raising of my hands like an evening oblation.

Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth;  
keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips!  
Do not turn my heart to things that are wrong,  
to evil deeds with men who are sinners.

Never allow me to share in their feasting.  
If a good man strikes or reproves me it is kindness;  
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.  
Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

Their princes were thrown down by the side of the rock:  
then they understood that my words were kind.  
As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned:  
in you I take refuge; spare my soul!  
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe:  
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set  
whilst I pursue my way unharmed.  
Give praise to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit  
both now and for ages unending. Amen.

**Antiphon: Like burning incense, O Lord, let my prayer rise up to you.**

**Silence**

**Psalm Prayer**

*(All Stand)*

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, when tempted by the devil  
you remained loyal to your Father  
whose angels watched over you at his command.  
Guard your Church and keep us safe from the plague of sin  
so that we may remain loyal to the day we enjoy your salvation  
and your glory.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Psalm 50:3-6.12-14**

*(All sit)*

**Antiphon: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness  
in your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

A pure heart create for me, O God  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise

Give praise to the Father Almighty,  
to his Son, Jesus Christ the Lord,  
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts,  
both now and for ever. Amen.

**Antiphon: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**Silence**

**Psalm Prayer**

*(All stand)*

Presider: Father, he who knew no sin was made sin for us,  
to save us and restore us to your friendship.  
Look upon our contrite heart and afflicted spirit  
and heal our troubled conscience,  
so that in the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit  
we may proclaim your praise  
and glory before all the nations.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Canticle 1 Peter 2: 21-24**

*(All sit)*

**Antiphon: God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all.**

1. Christ suffered for you,  
leaving you an example,  
that you should follow in his steps.
2. He committed no sin,  
no guile was found on his lips.  
When he was reviled, he did not revile in return.
3. When he suffered, he did not threaten:  
but he trusted to him who judges justly.
4. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.  
By his wounds you have been healed.
5. Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,

6. as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Antiphon: God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all.**

**Canticle Prayer**

*(All stand)*

Presider: Father, creator and ruler of heaven and earth,  
you made man in your likeness  
to subdue the earth and master it,  
and to recognize the work of your hands in created beauty.  
Grant that your children, thus surrounded on all sides  
by signs of your presence, may live continually in Christ,  
Praising you through him and with him.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

*Choose from the following examples:*

Matt 10:28-33	<i>Do not fear</i>
Matt 11:28-30	<i>You have hidden these things from the learned and have revealed them to children</i>
Matt 18:5-7a, 10	<i>Be careful never to despise one of these little ones</i>
Matt 5:1-10	<i>The Beatitudes</i>
Matt 5:43-48	<i>Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.</i>
Mark 4:35-41	<i>Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.</i>
Luke 10:25-37	<i>The Good Samaritan</i>
John 10:11-18	<i>The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.</i>
John 14:1-6	<i>There are many rooms in my father's house</i>

**Short Responsory**

Cantor/s: Hear us Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.  
**All: Hear us Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.**

Cantor/s: Listen, Christ, to the prayers of those who cry to you.  
**All: for we have sinned against you.**

Cantor/s: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
**All: Hear us Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.**

## **GOSPEL CANTICLE – Canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)**

*(During the Magnificat,  
all make the sign of the cross.  
The altar may be incensed,  
and then also the priest and people.)*

**Antiphon: Stay with us Lord, for evening draws near, and daylight is fading,  
alleluia.**

1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
2. for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant,  
and from this day all generations will call be blessed.
3. The almighty has done great things for me:  
Holy is his Name.
4. He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.
5. He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
6. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.
7. He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and has sent the rich away empty.
8. He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
9. the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.
10. Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,
11. as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Antiphon: Stay with us Lord, for evening draws near, and daylight is fading,  
alleluia.**

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

#### **Presider:**

We place our prayers of petition before God, mindful of our sinfulness but confident in the Lord's mercy.

#### **Reader:**

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.

**All: 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.

**All: 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.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for forgiveness for the sins committed by members of the Church in the sexual abuse of children.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for forgiveness for the sins committed by ecclesiastical authorities who covered up the abuses and ignored the suffering of victims.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all members of society: that they will honour human sexuality in the light of God's word, the Church's moral norms and fundamental human decency.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Presider:**

Gracious and loving God, source of all truth, justice and healing, we implore you to hear the prayers we offer and to look favourably on the pleas of your people. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Let us unite all our prayers in the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**All: Our Father . . .**

**Concluding Prayer**

Presider: Lord God, strength of those who hope in you,  
support us in our fervent prayer  
for all victims of sexual abuse and their families.  
Because we are weak and can do nothing without you,  
grant us always the help of your grace  
so that, in fulfilling your commandments,  
we may please you in all we desire  
and do to help those in need of our care.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### **Sign of Peace**

Presider: Before we conclude, let us take a moment to offer each other a sign of peace.

### **Blessing**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

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

**All: Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Presider: Go in the peace of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God**

OR *(when lead by a lay person)*

May God bless and keep us.

May God's face shine on us.

May God be kind to us and give us peace.

**All: Amen.**

### **Sources**

*The Divine Office* (London & Glasgow: Collins, Sydney: E. J. Dwyer, and Dublin: Talbot, 1974); *The Psalms: A New Translation - Singing Version* (London: Collins, 1963); *Worship: The Liturgy of the Hours – Leader's Edition* (Chicago: GIA, 1989). Musical settings of the responses, psalms, canticles and hymns can be located in *Catholic Worship Book* (Sydney: E. J. Dwyer & London: Collins Liturgical, 1985); *Gather Australia* (Chicago: GIA/Melbourne: NLMC Publications 1995), *Catholic Worship Book II* (Melbourne: Morning Star Publishing, 2016) or other sources. Thanks to staff at the National Office for Liturgy in the compilation of this prayer.

### **Copyright Acknowledgements**

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**ACBC Day of Prayer and Penance  
For Victims of Sexual Abuse (10 September 2017)**

**Celebration of Mass: For the Forgiveness of Sins**

For Liturgical Prayers, see Roman Missal (2010) Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, no. 38 “For the Forgiveness of Sins” p. 1370

For Scripture Readings, see Australian Lectionary (1981) Vol. III, no. 27 “For the Forgiveness of Sins, pp. 701ff

OR

Canadian Lectionary (2014) Vol II: Ritual and Votive Masses, no. 27 “For the Forgiveness of Sins, pp. 677ff.

**Sample Intercessory Prayer Intentions**

**Set 1**

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.  
Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.  
Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.  
Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.  
Let us pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

## **Set 2**

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. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

## **Liturgical Music**

For options, see Liturgical Indices in *Catholic Worship Book II* (2016) or other sources under Rites of Reconciliation/Penance and Topical Indices under Forgiveness, Healing, etc.

### **Copyright Acknowledgments**

General Intercessory Prayer Sample Intentions:  
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Office for Liturgy.

**ACBC Day of Fast and Penance  
for Victims of Sexual Abuse  
Sunday 10 September 2017**

**Holy Hour with Exposition and  
Benediction 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**

*After the people have assembled, a suitable hymn or song (e.g. O saving victim/O salutaris Hostia) may be sung while the minister comes to the altar. If the Blessed Sacrament 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; he is accompanied by servers or by the faithful with lighted candles.*

**GREETING AND INTRODUCTION**

*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.*

*The ciborium or monstrance should be placed upon the table of the altar which is covered with a cloth. If exposition with the monstrance is to extend over a long period, a throne in an elevated position may be used, but this should not be too lofty or distant. After exposition, if the monstrance is used, the minister incenses the sacrament. If the adoration is to be lengthy, he may then withdraw.*

## ADORATION

*During the exposition there should be prayers, songs, and readings to direct the attention of the faithful to the worship of Christ the Lord.*

*To encourage a prayerful spirit, there should be readings from scripture with a homily or brief exhortations to develop a better understanding of the Eucharistic mystery. It is also desirable for the people to respond to the word of God by singing and to spend some periods of time in religious silence.*

## SILENT PRAYER

### READING (Possibilities)

Isaiah 49:8-16	<i>I have given you as covenant of the people to establish the land</i>
Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18	<i>The Lord is appalled by evil and injustice</i>
Joel 2:12-18	<i>Let your hearts be broken, and not your garments torn</i>
Job 3:1-26	<i>Lamentation of Job</i>
Lamentations 3:1-24	<i>I am one who knows affliction</i>
Lamentations 3:49-59	<i>When I called, you came to my aid.</i>
Micah 4:1-4	<i>Every person shall sit undisturbed.</i>
<i>and/or</i>	
Matt 10:28-33	<i>Do not fear</i>
Matt 11:28-30	<i>You have hidden these things from the learned and have revealed them to children</i>
Matt 18:5-7a, 10	<i>Be careful never to despise one of these little ones</i>
Matt 5:1-10	<i>The Beatitudes</i>
Matt 5:43-48	<i>Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.</i>
Mark 4:35-41	<i>Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.</i>
Mark 10:13-16	<i>Anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.</i>
Luke 10:25-37	<i>The Good Samaritan</i>
John 10:11-18	<i>The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.</i>
John 14:1-6	<i>There are many rooms in my father's house</i>

## HOMILY

### SILENT PRAYER

#### Prayers of Intercession

Celebrant/Leader:

When the crowds came to Jesus, he did not turn them away but fed those who were hungry. In our prayer, let us be mindful of all victims of crime, particularly those who have suffered sexual abuse.

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.

We pray to the Lord. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.

We pray to the Lord. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.

We pray to the Lord. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

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.

We pray to the Lord. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant/Leader:

Gracious and loving God, with confidence we place these prayers before you in the name of Jesus who is Lord, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The following prayer might then be recited:*

### **Prayer for the Healing of Victims of Abuse**

Father

Since your mercy has been revealed  
in the tenderness of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who said to his disciples:  
"Suffer the little children to come unto 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

### **BENEDICTION**

*Toward the end of the exposition the priest or deacon goes to the altar, genuflects, and kneels. Then a hymn or other Eucharistic song is sung (e.g. Pange lingua, Adoro te devote, Ubi caritas). Meanwhile the minister, while kneeling, incenses the sacrament if the exposition has taken place with the monstrance.*

*Afterward the minister rises and sings or says.*

Let us pray.

*(Brief period of silence)*

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.

**All: Amen**

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

## **The Divine Praises**

Blessed be God  
Blessed be his holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.  
Blessed be the name of Jesus.  
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be his most precious Blood.  
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar.  
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.  
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.  
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.  
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.  
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.  
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.  
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

## **REPOSITION**

*After the blessing the priest or deacon who gave the blessing, or another priest or deacon, replaces the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and genuflects. Meanwhile the people may sing (e.g. Adoremus in aeternum) or say an acclamation, and the minister then leaves.*

## **Sources**

*Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass* (Sydney: E. J. Dwyer, 1975); *Together We Pray: General Intercessions for Sundays, Solemnities, Feasts and Other Celebrations*, ed. Robert Borg (Sydney: E. J. Dwyer, 1993); Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney - Office for Liturgy  
<http://www.liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/images/uploads/images/uploads/royal%20commission%20prayers.pdf>. alt.

## **Copyright Acknowledgments**

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**ACBC Day of Prayer and Penance  
For Victims of Sexual Abuse  
Sunday 10 September 2017**

**Common Penitential Celebration**

**Ritual Note**

1. Penitential celebrations, mentioned in the *Rite of Penance* (no. 36-37), are beneficial in fostering the spirit and virtue of penance among individuals and communities; they also help in preparing for a more fruitful celebration of the sacrament of penance. However, the faithful must be reminded of the difference between these celebrations and sacramental confession and absolution.
2. The particular conditions of life, the manner of speaking, and the educational level of the congregation or special group should be taken into consideration. Thus liturgical commissions and individual Christian communities preparing these celebrations should choose the texts and format most suited to the circumstances of each particular group.
3. To this end, an example of a common Penitential Celebration is offered below. This is one model and should be adapted to the specific conditions and needs of each community [*Rite of Penance* (1973) Appendix II: Sample Penitential Services]

**Entrance Hymn/Song**

E.g. *A Hymn of Healing for the Church* by Br Michael Herry FMS  
([www.maristmusic.org.au](http://www.maristmusic.org.au)) or other hymns/songs associated with Penance/Reconciliation and Healing.

**Greeting**

*The presiding celebrant briefly explains the purpose of the celebration in light of God's word.*

*Pope Francis, at this time, asks us to embrace a Day of Prayer and Penance for Victims and Survivors of Sexual Abuse. The following Common Penitential Service is offered in response to this request. The service provides an opportunity for the local community to incorporate the following five areas promoted by Pope Francis:*

1. *To ask God for forgiveness in relation to the criminal and other sins committed.*



- 2. To publically name and acknowledge that some perpetrators are members of the Church.*
- 3. To ask for forgiveness for the sins of covering-up facts and lack of response to them by Church authorities.*
- 4. To acknowledge that we have a responsibility to care for the victims and survivors of sexual abuse.*
- 5. To ask God to help us as members of his Church to fruitfully accompany victims, survivors and their families along the path of inner healing and reconciliation.*

## **Invitation to Prayer**

### **Silence**

### **Collect**

Presiding Celebrant:

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.

**All: Amen**

## **Scripture Readings**

### **First Reading**

#### **Ephesians 1:3-7**

He destined us for adoption to himself  
or

#### **1 John 1:5-9**

If we say “we are without sin”, we deceive ourselves

### **Silence**

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 32:10, 15-27, 20**

**R. My trust is in you, O God**

**or**

**Psalm 52 or another appropriate psalm**

**Gospel**

**John 21:15-19**

*Simon, son of John, do you love me?*

**or**

**Luke 22:31-34**

*I tell you, Peter: the cock will not crow today before you deny me three times*

**or**

**Luke 22:54-62**

*Peter went out and wept bitterly*

**Homily**

*The celebrant may speak about:*

- *The trust we must put in God's grace, not in our own powers;*
- *The faithfulness by which we as baptised Christians must live as true and faithful followers of the Lord;*
- *Our weakness and the Church's failures in relation to sexual abuse where members of the Church have fallen into sin and failed to give witness to the gospel;*
- *The mercy of the God, who welcomes as a friend the one who turns to the Lord with his/her whole heart.*

**Examination of Conscience**

*After the homily, the examination of conscience takes place. A period of silence should be included so that each person may personally examine his/her conscience.*

During this time of prayer and penance for victims of sexual abuse, what personal attitudes do I need to change as a member of the Church faithful to the Gospel?

During this time of prayer and penance for victims of sexual abuse, what individual or communal actions do I/we need to change?

During this time of prayer and penance for victims of sexual abuse, what resolutions do I/we need to make in the future?

## **Act of Repentance**

*After the examination of conscience, the presiding celebrant invites all to prayer in these or similar words:*

Father, open our lips  
Jesus, come to our aid.  
Holy Spirit, announce our praise to God.

Father, dislocate us from ingrained wrong ways.  
Jesus, prophesy us to the margins.  
Spirit, take hold of us, lead us where we would rather not go.

Father, hold us as our mothers and fathers would.  
Jesus, journey with us to our Emmaus.  
Spirit, turn us back to Jerusalem again with fire.

Father, give us fire to be the Pillar of Light for our dark journey.  
Jesus, give us tears to weep with you for the lost.  
Spirit, bring us to transparency in God's space.

Father, help us to bring about your kingdom...  
A kingdom of accountability,  
A kingdom of justice,  
A kingdom of good governance,  
A kingdom of deep inner growth.

Jesus, allow us to touch your wounds,  
To feel the holes in people's lives our nails have made,  
To put our hands in your side and feel the broken heart of our people.

Spirit, come to our aid.  
Gift us with the fire of your gifts:  
The fire of insight and understanding,  
The fire of good counsel and love,  
The fire sparked by our necessary fear,

The fire of courage for right judgement,  
The fire that burns our wrongdoing and sin.

God our Father, Son and Spirit, enable us to renew the face of the earth.

Enable us to be the face of God for others.

Enable us to gaze upon your face in others.

Enable us to be served by the victim.

Enable us to receive what we need to understand.

Heal us of the wounds of sin and division amongst us.

Heal us of the things that hold us up, that make us walk lamely.

Heal us through what we cannot see.

Heal us through what we hate to hear.

Enable our senses,

Enable us to be sensate to others and to ourselves.

Enable us with rationality to dialogue intelligently.

Enable us to be open with others and our inner selves.

Mission us to bring your fire to earth.

Mission us in humility.

Mission us again to the service you have called us to be

For others in the world,

For others who are baptised,

For others who are our brothers ordained,

For others who are our bishops,

For him who is Peter for us.

Bless us with the urgency of Christ,

Make us wish the fire to be burning already!

We pray in the name of Holy Spirit, Son and Father,

Eternal Being, equal in Three.

**Presiding Celebrant:** Let us now pray to the Father in the words Christ gave us and ask forgiveness for our sins:  
Our Father . . .

### **Concluding Prayer**

#### **Presiding Celebrant**

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.

**All: Amen**

### **Dismissal**

#### **Concluding Hymn**

A New Heart, for a New World/Create a New Heart, Holy Lord [*Catholic Worship Book II* (2016) 477]

#### **Source**

Excerpts from *The Rite of Penance* (1975):  
Appendix II - Common Penitential Celebration. Sydney: E. J. Dwyer, 1975.

#### **Copyright Acknowledgements**

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**ACBC Day of Prayer and Penance  
for Victims of Sexual Abuse  
Sunday 10 September 2017**

**PRAYERS FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

Let us pray for all victims, survivors and all those affected by sexual abuse with these prayers from the Vatican Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors composed by the Working Group on Theology and Spirituality.

Father

Since your mercy has been revealed  
in the tenderness of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who said to his disciples:  
"Suffer the little children to come unto 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

forever and ever.  
Amen.

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

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### **Prayers from Ireland and the United States of America**

Lord, we are so sorry  
For what some of us did to your children:  
Treaded 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.  
(Prayed at the 50<sup>th</sup> Eucharistic Congress, Dublin, 2012)

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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.

(Source: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)