



Prayers, Intercessions and Scripture Reflections

For Victims and Survivors
of Abuse

PRAYERS

FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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.

LITANY FOR PEACE

Archdiocese of Dublin

Even before Jesus is born he is also called: "*Immanuel* – a name which means '*God-is-with-us*'" (Mt 1:23) Jesus' first work is to accompany us. We hear it again the invitation to Jesus from the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus: when "they pressed Him to stay with them" (Lk 24:29)

We invite Him to accompany us as we pray:

Response (R): *Stay with us, Lord.*

When peace is fragile; (R)
When tempers are raised; (R)
When atrocities occur; (R)
When forgiveness is rejected; (R)
When talks break down; (R)
When agreements are broken; (R)
When darkness weighs on us; (R)
When we cannot see you; (R)
When burdens feel too heavy; (R)
When hope seems faint; (R)
When we are weak; (R)
When faith seems difficult; (R)

We ask the Risen Lord to continue to walk with and protect those who are burdened -

Response (R): *Walk with them, Lord.*

For all who have lost hope; (R)
For all who suffer; (R)
For all who are sick and in pain; (R)
For all who are struggling; (R)
For all who have been badly hurt in life; (R)
For all who are grieving; (R)
For all who are depressed; (R)
For all who feel rejected; (R)
For all who feel unloved; (R)
For all who are oppressed; (R)
For all who are anxious; (R)

HEALING OF MEMORIES

Liam Lawton

Lord, I cannot find the words that I should say,
nor will I ever know the pain nor know the deep despair
of souls who have been hurt for lack of love and care.
This is a prayer, a plea, that you would come
and gently heal the souls of all whose hearts still bleed.

Heal the silent scream of those who cry through nights and years.
The child who forever weeps and wakes in adult dreams.
Heal the pain that never seems to fade,
replace with love the guilt of endless shame.

Hear the voice that longs to tell its tale,
hear the words where integrity prevails,
hear the truth where honesty has failed.
Hear us now we call upon your name.

Heal all hidden memories in the deepest painful place,
suppressed through years of suffering.
From memories erase all thoughts of fear and failure
with tears that wash each face.

You Lord were stripped,
bruised and beaten, unprotected,
so vulnerable, derided, mocked, betrayed,
and in the tomb where you were laid,
we place the hurt, the hate, the wounds of history.

May we rise again through the power of your healing presence,
to live, to laugh, to love once more.
Send your spirit to move over all places of darkness.
For our destiny is to be people of the light,
waking from this night to find you
in an early dawn.

INTERCESSIONS

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Response (R): Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide Church leaders as they promote justice and healing for victims and survivors of abuse. **(R)**

We pray for our Holy Father, that he may fulfill his role as good shepherd, and protect the most vulnerable in his flock. **(R)**

We pray that all families strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people. **(R)**

May God the Merciful Father bring comfort and healing to victims and survivors of sexual abuse within the Church. **(R)**

We pray that all who provide help for the abused may act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministries. **(R)**

We pray that God may grant those affected by abuse in any way the courage to tell their story and seek healing. **(R)**

May all priests and religious, through their teaching and witness, lead children and young people to holiness. **(R)**

We pray that the bishops continue to carry out their promise to protect, and pledge to heal, the most vulnerable in their dioceses. **(R)**

We pray that all parish communities affected by abuse find healing and reconciliation through the Blessed Virgin Mary. **(R)**

ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBLIN

Response (R): Lord, hear our prayer.

With humility of heart, we pray to God, whose love and faithfulness endures forever.

We pray for people who have been abused whether physically, mentally, emotionally or sexually that the Lord of all tenderness and compassion will restore them and give them peace. **(R)**

We pray that we become more and more a community that actively protects the most vulnerable people of society, particularly our children. **(R)**

We pray that the Spirit of Wisdom enlightens people to put an end to acts of violence and abuse. **(R)**

We pray for the healing professions who minister to those who suffer violence and abuse, that God will give them an abundance of wisdom, compassion and love. **(R)**

God our rock and our strength
on whom we lean,
help us to create an atmosphere
of trust
which allows the unspeakable
to be said.

Help us to live with our painful
memories.

May we support each other and
be safe places for each other.

Through Christ, our Lord.

LITANY OF LAMENT AND REPENTANCE

Archdiocese of Dublin

We turn to God in sorrow and humility, confessing our sins against God and God's children, asking for mercy and forgiveness.

Response (R): Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

For the crimes and sins of sexual and physical abuse perpetrated by clergy and servants of the Church against children and young people; for the failure to love, respect, nurture and cherish young people – especially the most vulnerable. We ask your forgiveness. **(R)**

For the immense psychological harm and lasting spiritual devastation caused to survivors abused by Church representatives. We pray for the healing and peace of those whose suffering continues at home and abroad. **(R)**

For the sins of bishops and religious superiors, when they failed to respond as good shepherds to survivors of abuse by priests and religious. For indifference in the face of human suffering, for putting the institutional Church before the safety of children, for covering up crimes of abuse, and by so doing actually causing the sexual abuse of more children. For their lack of compassion and pastoral love, for the scandal given to God's people by their negligence and for the harm caused to the Church's mission by those in authority and responsibility. We ask God's forgiveness for the deaf ear, the blind eye and the hard heart. **(R)**

For the sins of those priests and religious who not only abused God's children but also scandalised them in the way our Lord deplored. We pray also that they may find forgiveness and ultimate healing, be delivered from denial and sincerely repent. **(R)**

For any indifference and lack of compassion experienced by survivors of clerical and religious abuse by their fellow Church members, who could have supported them.

For any hostility towards them, refusal to believe them, lack of care and acceptance towards our brothers and sisters who were unjustly subjected to such pain. **(R)**

For the anguish and distress caused to the families and friends of those abused by priests and religious. We lament the burdens of sorrow they carry on account of the injuries inflicted on their loved ones. **(R)**

For those who died prematurely as a result of the spiritual, psychological, and emotional damage they suffered through abuse. We grieve for the wounds that did not heal in this world. We remember those who died as a result of suicide. May God be close to those who mourn their loss. We remember them now, in a moment of silence...

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

ROMANS 8:26-27

When faced with great difficulty, we often can be at a total loss for words. But the Spirit of God can express even our sighs to the heart of God.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

1 PETER 5: 5b, 7, 10b-11

Wrap yourselves in humility to be servants of each other, because God refuses the proud and will always favor the humble. Unload all your worries on to him, since he is looking after you. The God of all grace who called you to eternal glory in Christ will see that all is well again: he will confirm, strengthen and support you. His power lasts forever and ever. Amen.

JOHN 14:27

Jesus said to his disciples: "Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

JOHN 14:1

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me."

PSALM 33

Response (R): The Lord is close to the broken hearted

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its
boast.

The humble will hear and be glad.
(R)

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered
me;
from all my terrors he set me free.
(R)

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
The Lord is close to the broken
hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he
will save. (R)

MARK 4:35-41

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us cross over to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, "Master, do you not care? We are going down!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet now! Be calm!" And the wind dropped, and all was calm again.

PSALM 68 (69)

*Response (R): In your great love,
answer me O God*

I am wearied with all my crying,
my throat is parched.
My eyes are wasted away
from looking for my God. (R)

This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favor.
In your great love answer me, God,
with your help that never fails. (R)

Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards
me.

Do not hide your face from your
servant;
answer me quickly for I am in
distress. (R)

As for me in my poverty and pain,
let your help, O God, lift me up.
The poor when they see it will be
glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive.
(R)

MATTHEW 18:5-7A, 10

Jesus said to his disciples: "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith in me would be better drowned in the depths of the sea with a great millstone round his neck. Alas for the world that there should be such obstacles!"

"See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven."

PSALM 26

*Response (R): The Lord is my light
and my help*

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold
of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? (R)

For there he keeps me safe
in his tent
in the day of evil.

He hides me in the shelter
of his tent,
on a rock he sets me safe. (R)

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
"Seek his face." (R)

It is your face O Lord that I seek;
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. (R)

Do not abandon or forsake me,
O God my help!
Though father and mother
forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.
The Lord is my light and my help

MATTHEW 11:28-30

Jesus exclaimed:

"Come to me, all you who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."

*For what we have done
And what we have failed to do
Lord, have mercy.*

OUR LADY  OF GRACE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
EDINA