

# Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse

## Resources | Intercessory Prayer

### Introduction

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM) has highlighted the importance of prayer and suggested to Pope Francis that the worldwide Catholic Church should join together in a day of prayer. The Holy Father has welcomed this initiative.

In the Cycle of Prayer for England and Wales, this day is marked every year on the Friday of the fifth week of Lent.

On Friday 12 April the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is encouraging the Catholic community to take part in a day of prayer for survivors of sexual abuse.

Three different sets of Intercessions are offered

### Intercessions I

We pray in sorrow for the suffering endured by so many in so many ways.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who were disbelieved – or punished for trying to speak the truth.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose memories have been reawakened  
and whose pain feels as fresh as the times when it was inflicted.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who hid the truth – from themselves – and from others.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who chose to protect the institution  
rather than the children and vulnerable adults Christ himself calls us to protect.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who perpetrated these crimes – who committed these grave sins.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves – for the anger – the dismay – the revulsion – the despair...  
that we might be forces for good – bearers of light in this time of deep darkness.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

## Intercessions II

*The following text are based on Intercessions composed by Daughters of Mary, community of religious sisters in France, which were prayed during the Vatican Summit in February 2019*

As the people of God we cannot remain silent and insensitive before the burden that the Catholic Church is bearing today. During this time of prayer and penitence we would like to express our compassion to the people who have been victims of sex abuse or abuse of power or conscience.

Christ our Lord as in former times men and women have been wounded and humiliated  
and they have been forgotten by the wayside  
Not all have yet found an attentive ear to listen to their pain  
Not all have yet found a shoulder to help them share their burden  
As in past times, you don't have any fear of listening to their cries.

*Lord Jesus, you love every man and every woman; bring us healing, bring us peace*

Christ our Lord, as in the past, you will stop beside the person who is suffering  
You will approach those who have been the victims of sexual abuse  
You will approach those who are suffering in their bodies  
— whose bodies and spirits have been battered by their fears  
and who do not know how to pray to you

*Lord Jesus, you love every man and every woman; bring us healing, bring us peace*

Christ our Lord, as in the past, please turn towards those whose trust has been betrayed  
because of an unhealthy relationship and an abuse of conscience.  
As in the past take care of those who feel that they are unworthy, dirtied, abandoned,  
whose soul has been paralyzed and who suffer in their relational and spiritual lives

*Lord Jesus, you love every man and every woman; bring us healing, bring us peace*

Christ our Lord, as in the past you do not fear to uncover their wounds  
You prepare wine and oil to comfort them  
You watch over them day and night  
You give them your life

*Lord Jesus, you love every man and every woman; bring us healing, bring us peace*

## Intercessions III

Presider:

Out of the depths, we cry to you O Lord. Hear our voices raised in supplication, for we trust in your mercy and forgiveness, and we place our hope in your word.

Reader:

Let us pray firstly for the children, young people and vulnerable adults whose lives have been scarred, broken and even ended because of the abuse they have experienced at the hands of those whom they trusted and looked up to, those whose task it was to nurture, care for and protect them, but who cast aside the trust placed in them. May those sons and daughters of God, innocent victims who have suffered so greatly, be restored and strengthened by the power of Christ, who can bring inner peace and fresh hope for living.

*Pause for silent prayer. The cantor sings and all repeat: Kyrie, eleison.*

Let us pray for the families and loved ones of those who have been abused, as they seek to bring comfort, encouragement and healing to these innocent ones. May they be able to sow the seeds of new beginnings for those whose lives have been so wounded.

*Pause for silent prayer. The cantor sings and all repeat: Kyrie, eleison.*

Let us pray for the members of our Church, the body of Christ, broken and scarred by the grave sin of abuse in all its forms. We acknowledge that she can only begin to be healed through repentance, reparation and firm resolve to protect the young and the vulnerable. May the Christ the Healer, who alone can redeem, grant our Church the graces of humility, continuing conversion and adherence to the truth.

*Pause for silent prayer. The cantor sings and all repeat: Kyrie, eleison.*

Let us pray for God's blessing on those who seek to bring about justice for all victims of abuse. May they never be impeded in their work by those in authority in the Church or in any other institution. May the needs, the healing, and the new beginnings deserved by every victim always be their first priority.

*Pause for silent prayer. The cantor sings and all repeat: Kyrie, eleison.*

Let us pray for those who minister in our Catholic parishes, schools and other communities: for teachers who catechise our young in the ways of faith, that they be enlightened with the wisdom of Christ the Teacher; for priests who preach the word and celebrate the sacraments, that they be kept holy by Christ the High Priest; for ministers of hospitality and care who offer the friendship of the Catholic community to all members of Christ's body and to all whom the Lord sends our way, that they be sanctified by Christ, the giver of divine hospitality.

*Pause for silent prayer. The cantor sings and all repeat: Kyrie, eleison.*

Let us pray for all who spend themselves in the pursuit of peace, healing and reconciliation for the abused, the needy, the weak and the vulnerable. May they be sustained with the power of Christ, the divine reconciler.

*Pause for silent prayer. The cantor sings and all repeat: Kyrie, eleison.*

Let us pray for ourselves in this faith community.  
May our lives will shine with the light of Christ;  
may we have grace and energy to bring his good news to the poor,  
and to echo in our words and actions his care in binding up hearts that are broken.

*Pause for silent prayer. The cantor sings and all repeat: Kyrie, eleison.*

Presider:

May these prayers rise in your presence like incense O Lord,  
as a symbol of our sorrow and contrition, our humility and penitence.  
Renew us in spirit, strengthen us in hope, perfect us in love.  
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Scottish National Liturgy Commission