

# Daily Prayer

Third Sunday of Lent Year B  
*The Year of Mark; Year of Prayer 2024*



**Readings:** Exodus 20: 1–17; Psalm 18: 8–11; 1 Corinthians 1: 22–25; John 2: 13–25.

## Year of Prayer 2024

Pope Francis proposed that 2024 be marked as a year dedicated to prayer in preparation for the Jubilee 2025. The Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Daily Prayer resources will support both individual and community prayer in the Year of Prayer 2024. In addition, the Dicastery for Evangelization will publish a series of [prayer notebooks](#), with material taken from the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition.

## Preparations for Daily Prayer

The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities and days of cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

The prayers will introduce students to traditional prayer and liturgical practices and responses, as well as a variety of Christian spiritual experiences. Take the opportunity to create a **sacred space** for prayer as you might do in creating a protected garden. This may include a prayer cloth or placemat, a bible, a candle and flowers.

## Readings this Week

The readings this week focus on the law. In the First Reading, we find the Ten Commandments, a guide to living in a loving relationship with God and his people. The Responsorial Psalm describes God's law as more precious than gold and sweeter than honey and, in the Gospel, we find Jesus railing against the Jewish leaders who use man-made rules and regulations to disrespect the house of God.

## Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Purple	<i>My Father's house is a house of prayer.</i>	Praying with the Gospel Reflection
Tuesday – Purple	<i>Project Compassion focuses on the theme: 'For all future generations'.</i>	Project Compassion: <a href="#">Responding to the story of Leiaia from Samoa</a> Reflection and Discussion
Wednesday – Purple	<i>Jesus chasing the merchants from the Temple.</i>	Praying with the Gospel Entrance Antiphon Reflection using an Image Lenten Prayer
Thursday – Purple	<i>I, the Lord, am your God.</i>	Praying with the First Reading Written Reflection Our Father
Friday – Purple	<i>Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.</i>	Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Responding with Song Sign of Peace



Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) or NRSV.

### **Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings**

- Liturgy Help: [Commentaries and Homilies & Reflections](#)
- Loyola Press: [Sunday Connection](#)
- The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#)
- Caritas Australia: [Project Compassion](#).



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**Readings:** Exodus 20: 1–17; Psalm 18: 8–11; 1 Corinthians 1: 22–25; John 2: 13–25.

## Today's Daily Prayer – My Father's house is a house of prayer

Today, we will pray with the Gospel. **Preparation:** It would be appropriate to have a purple candle and cloth during the season of Lent. Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

## Monday

### Gather

*Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the Word, in each other and in ourselves. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

### Sign of the Cross

**Leader:** As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Light candle and pause.*

### Background to the Gospel

*In Jewish law, there were many rules and regulations that controlled the practice of religion. At the time of Jesus, Israel was under Roman law and the usual coinage was Roman. The Jewish priests did not allow this money to be used in the temple, as it had an image of Caesar on it and was considered idolatrous. Jewish people had to have Roman coins changed for Jewish coins and there was always interest added. Animals to be sacrificed – cattle, sheep and pigeons – were always overpriced. Many people did not go to the temple to offer sacrifice because of these unfair practices, and they looked for a Messiah who would get rid of these leaders and restore worship that brought them close to God.*

### Listen

*If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God, and treat the text with reverence.*

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Since the Passover of the Jews was near,

Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

He found in the Temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,

as well as the money changers seated there.



He made a whip out of cords  
and drove them all out of the Temple area,  
with the sheep and oxen,  
and spilled the coins of the money changers  
and overturned their tables,  
and to those who sold doves he said,  
'Take these out of here,  
and stop making my Father's house a marketplace.'

*(Pause)*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Respond

### Reflection

**Leader:** Jesus knew that his decision to clear out the temple area would make him even more unpopular than he was already with the Jewish leaders. He did it because it was the right thing to do.

Sometimes we do the popular thing even though it's not right and sometimes we do the right thing even though it's not popular. Discuss with a couple of others what this means for you in your life.

*Time for quiet reflection ...*

## Go Forth

**Leader:** As we go forth, let us pray for courage to be people of commitment, people of conviction, people of principle. Gracious God, give us the strength we need to do the right thing, not always the popular thing.

**All: Amen.**

*Extinguish candle and pause.*

**Leader:** May God continue to lead us.

**All: Inspired to live faithfully in the light of Christ.**

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



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**Readings:** Exodus 20: 1–17; Psalm 18: 8–11; 1 Corinthians 1: 22–25; John 2: 13–25.

## Today's Daily Prayer – Project Compassion 'For all future generations'

Today's prayer focuses on the story of Leaia from Samoa, who is being supported by the work of Caritas Australia in this year's Project Compassion. **Preparation:** It would be appropriate to have a purple candle and cloth during the season of Lent. Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

## Tuesday

### Gather

*Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the Word, in each other and in ourselves. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

### Sign of the Cross

**Leader:** As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

**All:** **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Light candle and pause.*

**Leader:** As we continue to live the days of Lent reflecting on our words and deeds in the light of Scripture, may we seek guidance from the Word of God. May we open our minds and hearts to listen and to live what we hear.

**All:** **Amen.**

### Listen

#### Project Compassion – the story of Leaia from Samoa

*Each week during Lent, Project Compassion shares the story of a community through the eyes of an individual who is being supported by Caritas Australia. This is in the 'Listen' section because it is the Word of God in action. More [teaching resources](#) are available on the Caritas Australia website.*

**Leader:** Let us watch and listen to the story of [Leaia from Samoa](#).

*Pause for silent reflection ...*

### Respond

**Leader:** In pairs or small groups, let us share our thoughts about the story of Leaia.

- How do you feel after watching this video?
- What are the challenges Leaia faces?
- How can we, the members of this community, help to transform the lives of people like Leaia?

*(Allow some time for sharing)*



What were some of the things that came up in our conversations? What connections did we make and what responses/actions would we like to take?

*(Allow some time to invite feedback)*

Let us pray that we listen to the voice of the Spirit within us as we go about our day.

## **Go Forth**

**Leader:** As we go forth from here, let us remember that we are called to live in solidarity and to work together for the common good.

**All:** **Amen.**

*Extinguish candle and pause.*

**All:** **May we be inspired to live faithfully in the light of Christ.**

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



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**Readings:** Exodus 20: 1–17; Psalm 18: 8–11; 1 Corinthians 1: 22–25; John 2: 13–25.

## Today's Daily Prayer – Jesus chasing the merchants from the Temple

Today, we focus on the Gospel. **Preparation:** It would be appropriate to have a purple candle and cloth during the season of Lent. Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

## Wednesday

### Gather

*Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the Word, in each other and in ourselves. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

### Sign of the Cross

**Leader:** As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

**All:** **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Light candle and pause.*

**Leader:** Let us begin our prayer today with the Entrance Antiphon from Sunday's liturgy.

**All:** **I will gather you from all the foreign lands;  
and I will pour clean water upon you  
and cleanse you from all your impurities,  
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.  
Amen.**

### Listen

#### The Word in Image

**Leader:** During Lent, we will take the opportunity to reflect and pray with images that relate to the scripture readings for each week.

Today, let us reflect on the painting titled *Jesus Chasing the Merchants from the Temple* in the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp in Belgium. Loyola Press has created an audio reflection on this image as part of the Arts & Faith series. Let us view this image and reflect on its significance.

Arts & Faith: Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle B, '[Jesus Chasing the Merchants from the Temple](#)'.

*Time for silent reflection ...*



## Respond

### Meditation

**Leader:** Let us sit very still and quiet, feet on the floor, hands in our laps. *(Pause)*  
Which one of the characters in the painting do you relate to most?  
What cleansing needs to happen in your life?

*Time for quiet reflection ...*

## Go Forth

### Lenten Prayer

**Leader:** May we be cleansed from selfishness and thoughtlessness.

**All:** **Create a new heart in me, O Lord.**

**Leader:** May we be cleansed from dishonesty and deceit.

**All:** **Create a new heart in me, O Lord.**

**Leader:** May we be cleansed from hurtful words and actions.

**All:** **Create a new heart in me, O Lord.**

**Leader:** May we be cleansed from anger and hate.

**All:** **Create a new heart in me, O Lord.**

**Leader:** May we be cleansed from all things that draw us away from you.

**All:** **Create a new heart in me, O Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Extinguish candle and pause.*

**All:** **May we be inspired to live faithfully in the light of Christ.**

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





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**Readings:** Exodus 20: 1–17; Psalm 18: 8–11; 1 Corinthians 1: 22–25; John 2: 13–25.

## Today's Daily Prayer – I, the Lord, am your God

Today's prayer will focus on the First Reading. **Preparation:** It would be appropriate to have a purple candle and cloth during the season of Lent. Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

## Thursday

### Gather

*Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the Word, in each other and in ourselves. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

### Sign of the Cross

**Leader:** As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

**All:** **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Leader:** Let us call on the Spirit to be with us this day.

Spirit of joy,

**All:** **Fill our hearts.**

**Leader:** Spirit of peace,

**All:** **Fill our hearts.**

**Leader:** Spirit of love,

**All:** **Fill our hearts.**

**Leader:** Spirit of life,

**All:** **Fill our hearts.**

*Light candle and pause.*

### Background to the First Reading

*The First Reading is about the Ten Commandments. It opens with God declaring, 'I, the Lord, am your God', thereby putting the Commandments in a relational context. These words are a gift to the Israelites from their God and shape the daily life of those in relationship with God. The Commandments are often divided into two parts: those regarding worship and those governing human relationships. However, they are woven together. Those who worship in this particular way are going to be formed into a certain kind of people and the laws which pertain to living in right relationships concern living as God requires. The Ten Commandments are meant to form Israel into a sacred community rooted in right worship of God, and living in justice and peace with one another.*



## Listen

**Leader:** A reading from the book of Exodus.

**Reader:** In those days, God delivered all these commandments:  
'I, the Lord, am your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.  
You shall not have other gods besides me.  
You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.  
For the Lord will not leave unpunished  
the one who takes his name in vain.  
Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.  
Honour your father and your mother,  
that you may have a long life in the land  
which the Lord, your God, is giving you.  
You shall not kill.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.  
You shall not covet your neighbour's house.  
You shall not covet your neighbour's wife,  
nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass,  
nor anything else that belongs to him.'  
*(Pause)*  
The Word of the Lord.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## Respond

**Leader:** Let us take some time to reflect on these words from God.  
Which commandments might need more attention from you?  
Try to think of a few words that might sum up your personal commandments,  
e.g. respect, honour, value.  
Write these down and keep them close to you to remind yourself to use these words as  
your lens to life and relationships.

*Time for quiet reflection ...*



## Go Forth

**Leader:** Let us finish today by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

**All:** **Our Father ...**

**Amen.**

**May we be inspired to live faithfully in the light of Christ.**

*Extinguish candle and pause.*

**All:** **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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**Readings:** Exodus 20: 1–17; Psalm 18: 8–11; 1 Corinthians 1: 22–25; John 2: 13–25.

## Today's Daily Prayer – Lord, you have the words of everlasting life

Today, we will pray with the Responsorial Psalm. **Preparation:** It would be appropriate to have a purple candle and cloth during the season of Lent. Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

## Friday

### Gather

*Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the Word, in each other and in ourselves. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

### Sign of the Cross

**Leader:** As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Light candle and pause.*

**Leader:** In the beauty of the world that surrounds us ...

**All:** Reveal yourself to us, O Lord.

**Leader:** In the faces of all those who seek justice and compassion ...

**All:** Reveal yourself to us, O Lord.

**Leader:** In the quiet stillness of our hearts ...

**All:** Reveal yourself to us, O Lord.

Amen.

### Background to the Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 18 is a song of acclaim, praising God's Word. It gives us many synonyms for God's law, describing it as perfect, trustworthy, pure and true. It is not 'law' in the legal sense, but more like an instruction on how to live the words of Scripture. The psalm describes what God has done and continues to do – reviving the spirit, making wise those who are 'simple', enlightening the eye and enduring forever. It concludes by saying that the Word of God is more desirable and more precious than gold, and sweeter than honey. The Word of God is perfect, and is a gracious gift from a God who loves us and cares for us.*

### Listen

**Leader:** Let us pray together the Responsorial Psalm.

**Reader:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**All:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.



**Reader:** The law of the Lord is perfect,  
refreshing the soul;  
The decree of the Lord is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple.

**All:** **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

**Reader:** The precepts of the Lord are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the command of the Lord is clear,  
enlightening the eye.

**All:** **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

**Reader:** The fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true,  
all of them just.

**All:** **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

**Reader:** They are more precious than gold,  
than a heap of purest gold;  
sweeter also than syrup  
that drips from the honeycomb.

**All:** **Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

## Respond

**Leader:** Let us respond to this psalm in song:

- [‘May the words of my mouth’](#) by Christy Nockels
- [‘Be still and know’](#) by Steven Curtis Chapman.

*Time of reflective silence ...*

## Go Forth

**Leader:** As we go forth, may God’s words stay close to my heart.

**All:** **Amen.**

**Leader:** May God’s words direct my words and deeds.

**All:** **Amen.**

**Leader:** May God’s words feed my mind and fill my soul.

**All:** **Amen.**



## Sign of Peace

**Leader:** As we come to the end of another week, let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*(Sign of Peace)*

**All:** Lord, inspire us to live faithfully in the light of Christ.

*Extinguish candle and pause.*

**All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

