

# Daily Prayer

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



**Readings:** Jeremiah 31: 31–34; Psalm 50: 3–4, 12–15; Hebrews 5: 7–9; John 12: 20–33.

## 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 are about the heart. In the First Reading, Jeremiah writes about a new covenant that God makes with people's hearts, a covenant that would be based on honest conduct and love of God and others. The psalmist calls on God to forgive his sins and create a new heart in him, while the Gospel speaks of dying to self and working from the heart to give to others.

## Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – <i>White</i> <i>Saint Patrick</i>	<i>Jesus sends out the seventy-two.</i>	Praying with the Gospel Litany of Saint Patrick
Tuesday – <i>White</i> <i>Saint Joseph</i>	<i>Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid.</i>	Praying with the Gospel Prayers of the Faithful
Wednesday – <i>Purple</i>	<i>Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies ...</i>	Praying with the Gospel Entrance Antiphon Meditation using Artwork Our Father
Thursday – <i>Purple</i>	<i>Create a clean heart in me, O God.</i>	Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Responding in Song Prayer of John Henry Newman
Friday – <i>Purple</i>	<i>Whoever serves me must follow me.</i>	Praying with the Gospel Prayer of Saint Francis 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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## Today's Daily Prayer – Your peace will rest on that man

Today, we will pray with the Gospel for the Solemnity of Saint Patrick (Lk 10: 1–12, 17–20).

**Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

### Background to the Solemnity of Saint Patrick

*Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and our cathedral. Saint Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain, but was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party when he was 14, and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. After escaping and having a vision of God, he studied to become a priest and converted many people – eventually thousands – and began building churches across the country. He worked many miracles and wrote constantly about his love for God.*

## 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.*

**Leader:** As we light this candle, let us remember Saint Patrick who proclaimed the Good News throughout his lifetime, converting many people, and who continues to intercede for us today.

**All:** Amen.

### 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.*

**Leader:** Today's Gospel is taken from the Mass of Saint Patrick.

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

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit.



He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you."' "

*(Pause)*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Respond

### Reflection

**Leader:** We listen to 'The deer's cry' ('Saint Patrick's breastplate').

### Litany of Saint Patrick

**Leader:** Lord, have mercy on us.

**All: Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Leader:** Christ, have mercy on us.

**All: Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Leader:** Lord, have mercy on us.

**All: Lord, have mercy on us.**

**Leader:** Christ, hear us.

**All: Christ, graciously hear us.**

**Leader:** God, the Father of heaven,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

**Leader:** God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

**Leader:** God, the Holy Spirit,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

**Leader:** Holy Trinity, one God,

**All: Have mercy on us.**

**Leader:** Holy Mary, Mother of God,

**All: Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick,

**All: Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, Apostle of Ireland,

**All: Pray for us.**



**Leader:** Saint Patrick, most worthy in God's eyes,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, model of bishops,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, enemy of infidelity,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, truly humble,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, always trying to do good,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, example of charity,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, patron of our Archdiocese,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, teacher of the true faith,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, our powerful protector,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick, our compassionate helper,

**All:** **Pray for us.**

**Leader:** Saint Patrick,

**All:** **Pray for us!**

### **Go Forth**

**Leader:** As we go forth, let us pray that the example and intercessions of Saint Patrick help us to cultivate a lively faith, a firm hope and a strong will to build God's Kingdom.

**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:** Jeremiah 31: 31–34; Psalm 50: 3–4, 12–15; Hebrews 5: 7–9; John 12: 20–33.

## Today's Daily Prayer – Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid

Today, we will pray with the Gospel from the Mass of Saint Joseph (Mt 1: 16, 18–21, 24).

**Preparation:** 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 light this candle, let us be inspired by Joseph's great faith in a God who loves us, cares for us and will always be with us.

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

### Background to the Feast Day

*Today, we celebrate the feast of Saint Joseph. We don't know a lot about Joseph, as he only appears in the beginning of the gospels of Matthew and Luke. We know that he was born of the royal house of David and he was a humble carpenter. From the stories we have, we can see that he cared for Jesus and his mother Mary, and was a good and upright man. Joseph showed great courage, devotion and strength, and is a model of trust and faith in 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.*

**Leader:** Today's Gospel is taken from the Mass of Saint Joseph.

**Reader:** The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'



When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

*(Pause)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Respond

### Prayers of the Faithful

**Leader:** Gracious and ever-present God, inspired by the faith of Joseph, we bring our prayers before you, knowing that you are always ready to listen to us.

**Reader:** We pray that we may have the strength and courage of Joseph. *(Pause)* Lord, hear us.

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

**Reader:** We pray that we may have the open heart and faith of Joseph. *(Pause)* Lord, hear us.

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

**Reader:** We pray that we may have the love for Jesus that Joseph had. *(Pause)* Lord, hear us.

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

**Reader:** We pray that we may have the commitment and determination of Joseph. *(Pause)* Lord, hear us.

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

**Reader:** We pray that we may have the hope and trust in God that Joseph had. *(Pause)* Lord, hear us.

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

**Leader:** Loving God, with hope and faith we ask you to accept the prayers we make to you.

**All: Amen.**

*Time for quiet reflection ...*

## Go Forth

**Leader:** Loving God, through the example of Saint Joseph, may we strive to be people of courage and faith who place our trust in you. Give us the strength we need to be your true disciples willing to live your ways. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**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:** Jeremiah 31: 31–34; Psalm 50: 3–4, 12–15; Hebrews 5: 7–9; John 12: 20–33.

## Today's Daily Prayer – Parable of the grain of wheat

Today, we focus on a reading behind the Gospel, Jesus' parables of the sower and the grain of wheat.

**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:** As we light this candle, let us pray together the Entrance Antiphon from Sunday's liturgy.

**All:** **Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the dishonest and the deceitful rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.**

### 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 entitled *The Sower* by Vincent Van Gogh. 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: Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B, '[The Sower](#)'.

*Time for silent reflection ...*





## Respond

### Meditation

**Leader:** Let us sit very still and quiet, feet on the floor, hands in our laps. *(Pause)*

When the seed falls to the ground, it must die in the form that it is in and become something new – stem, roots, leaves, fruit.

What is it that we need to let go of in our lives in order to find new life?

What needs to die in us and what needs to blossom?

Take some time to pray that God gives you the courage that you need to do this.

*Time for quiet reflection ...*

## Go Forth

**Leader:** Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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

*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:** Jeremiah 31: 31–34; Psalm 50: 3–4, 12–15; Hebrews 5: 7–9; John 12: 20–33.

## Today's Daily Prayer – Create a clean heart in me, O God

Today's prayer will focus on 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.

## 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.**

*Light candle and pause.*

**Leader:** As we light this candle, let us remember that Jesus is the light who dispels all darkness, who guides us when we lose our way, and shows us the way to the Father.

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

### Background to the Responsorial Psalm

*This psalm was prayed by King David after he had committed serious sins and was confronted by the prophet Nathan. David had fallen in love with the wife of one of his soldiers. He made sure the soldier was put in the front line of the battle and was killed. David then took his wife, Bathsheba, as his own wife. He admits his sin, taking full responsibility for it and not trying to blame anyone else. David prayed this psalm asking God to show mercy to him and forgive his sins. He asks God not to turn away from him. He prays for his sins to be washed away and desires a clean heart so that he can teach others to turn to God.*

### Listen

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

**Reader:** Create a clean heart in me, O God.

**All:** **Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

**Reader:** Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;  
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.  
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt  
and of my sin cleanse me.



**All:**           **Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

**Reader:**    A clean heart create for me, O God,  
                  and a steadfast spirit renew within me.  
                  Cast me not out from your presence,  
                  and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

**All:**           **Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

**Reader:**    Give me back the joy of your salvation,  
                  and a willing spirit sustain in me.  
                  I will teach transgressors your ways,  
                  and sinners shall return to you.

**All:**           **Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

## Respond

### Reflection

**Leader:**    Let us reflect on the words of this psalm in song:  
                  ‘[Psalm 51](#)’ by John Michael Talbot.

*Time for quiet reflection ...*

## Go Forth

### Concluding Prayer – John Henry Newman (1801–1890)

**Leader:**    O Lord, support us all day long,  
                  until the shadows lengthen,  
                  and the evening comes,  
                  and the busy world is hushed,  
                  and the fever of life is stilled,  
                  and our work is done.  
                  Then Lord, in your mercy,  
                  grant us a safe haven,  
                  and a holy rest,  
                  and peace at last.  
                  Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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:** Jeremiah 31: 31–34; Psalm 50: 3–4, 12–15; Hebrews 5: 7–9; John 12: 20–33.

## Today's Daily Prayer – Whoever serves me must follow me

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.

## 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:** Let us pray that the Holy Spirit enlivens this gathering, and blesses the speakers and the listeners, so that God's Word touches the minds and hearts of all present.

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

### Background to the Gospel

*In his preaching and teaching, Jesus often used symbols from the lives of the people to help them understand what he meant. In this Gospel, Jesus uses the image of wheat, which he also used in the parable of the sower. Wheat was used to make bread, which was a staple of their diet. Jesus refers to a grain of wheat which, when it falls to the ground, must die in order to bear fruit. He is talking about self-giving. Those who die to themselves and give their lives in the service of others will bear much fruit.*

### 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.

Jesus said, 'Amen, amen, I say to you,

unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,

it remains just a grain of wheat;

but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it,



and whoever hates his life in this world  
will preserve it for eternal life.  
Whoever serves me must follow me,  
and where I am, there also will my servant be.  
The Father will honour whoever serves me.'

*(Pause)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Respond

### Reflection – Prayer of Saint Francis

**Leader:** Let us pray together slowly the prayer of Saint Francis, pausing at the end of each line to reflect on the words. This prayer reminds us that it is in giving to others that we find life.

**All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love.**

**Where there is injury, pardon.**

**Where there is doubt, faith.**

**Where there is despair, hope.**

**Where there is darkness, light.**

**And where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,**

**to be understood as to understand,**

**to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

*Time for reflective silence ...*

## Go Forth

### 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: Let us go forth full of confidence, ready to be Christ in the world and sure in the knowledge that, in doing so, we will bear much fruit.**

**Amen.**

*Extinguish candle and pause.*

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

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

