

Daily Prayer

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;
Holy Week Year B
The Year of Mark; Year of Prayer 2024



Readings: Mark 14: 1 – 15: 47 or Mark 15: 1–39 (shorter form).

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 for Holy Week

This week's Daily Prayer focuses on the passion and death of Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of Mark. Each day's prayer will focus on a different part of the account, followed by prayer, reflection and song.

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Red	<i>Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.</i>	Praying with the Gospel: Entry into Jerusalem Entrance Antiphon Reflection with Song
Tuesday – Red	<i>Jesus took the bread and gave it to his disciples.</i>	Praying with the Gospel: The Last Supper Entrance Antiphon Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Reflection with Song Aaron's Blessing
Wednesday – Red	<i>Christ became obedient for us even to death, death on a cross.</i>	Praying with the Gospel: The Agony in the Garden Entrance Antiphon Reflection with Song Prayer of Entreaty



Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Thursday – Red <i>Holy Thursday</i>	<i>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?</i>	Praying with the Gospel: Jesus Christ's Death on the Cross Prayer of Forgiveness Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Reflection with Song

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 – Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Today, we focus on the Gospel of Palm Sunday (Mk 11: 7–10). **Preparation:** Prepare the sacred space with a red cloth and appropriate symbols, e.g. palm branches, crown of thorns, large nails and hammer. 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.

Leader: As we light this candle, let us pray the Entrance Antiphon from the Mass of Palm Sunday.

All: **Hosanna to the son of David:**

blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 reading is taken from the Passion Gospel of Mark.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!



Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

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

Imagine you are in the crowd on Palm Sunday. Who are you?

Are you a faithful follower of Jesus, rejoicing and cheering, wanting Jesus to take control?

Are you familiar with Jesus and ready to believe, but not too openly?

Are you not so sure about Jesus, and doubtful about what you think and believe?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Suggested music for reflection:

- [‘In the silence’](#) by Monica Brown
- [‘In the quiet’](#) by Liam Lawton
- [‘Only in God’](#) by John Michael Talbot.

Go Forth

Short Responsorial Prayer

Leader: Increase our hope and faith in you, O God.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Leader: Increase our wisdom and understanding, O God.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Leader: Increase our love and desire for you, O God.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Leader: Hear the prayers of those who call on you.

All: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

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: Mark 14: 1 – 15: 47 or Mark 15: 1–39 (shorter form).

Today's Daily Prayer – 'He took the bread, broke it and gave it to his disciples'

Today, we focus on the Gospel of Holy Thursday. **Preparation:** Prepare the sacred space with a white cloth and appropriate symbols, e.g. bread and wine. 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: Let us pray together the Entrance Antiphon for the Mass of Holy Thursday.

All: **We should glory in the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection,
through whom we are saved and delivered.
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: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Reader: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many, my blood which seals God's covenant. I tell you, I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine in the Kingdom of God.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

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



Respond

Leader: Let us respond by praying together the Responsorial Psalm.

Reader: Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

All: **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

Reader: How shall I make a return to the Lord
for all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the Lord.

All: **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

Reader: Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.
I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.

All: **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

Reader: To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the name of the Lord.
My vows to the Lord I will pay
in the presence of all his people.

All: **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.**

Time for quiet reflection ...

Suggested music for reflection:

- [‘Our blessing cup’](#) by John Michael Talbot
- [‘I am the bread of life’](#) by Steve Angrisano.

Go Forth

Aaron’s Blessing

Leader: May the Lord bless you and keep you safe.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.

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: Mark 14: 1 – 15: 47 or Mark 15: 1–39 (shorter form).

Today's Daily Prayer – Father, if it is your will, let this cup pass from me

Today, we focus on the events of Holy Thursday. **Preparation:** Prepare the sacred space with a red cloth and appropriate symbols, e.g. palm branches, crown of thorns, large nails and hammer. 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 Wednesday of Holy Week.

All: **At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend
of those in heaven and on the earth and under the earth,
for the Lord became obedient even unto death, death on a cross,
therefore, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

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 Mark.

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.



All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Meditation

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

While Jesus was in the garden praying, he called God 'Abba'. This is an affectionate word, which is like 'Dad' or 'Papa'. It expresses the closeness of Jesus' relationship with his father. For Jesus, God was not distant, but very close and very familiar.

Let us watch 'Jesus in the garden' (scene from *The Passion of the Christ*) and listen to the song 'Papa, can you hear me?' by Barbra Streisand.

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Prayer of Entreaty

Leader: Let us pray.

God of great compassion and love,
turn your ear and listen to our prayers.

Reader 1: When I am anxious and afraid, and don't know where to turn,

All: Surround me with your love.

Reader 2: When I am lost and confused, and all seems hopeless,

All: Surround me with your love.

Reader 3: When I am in the depths of despair and depression,

All: Surround me with your love.

Reader 4: When my heart is broken, and I am crushed,

All: Surround me with your love.

Reader 5: When my strength has failed, and I am weak and tired,

All: Surround me with your love.

Reader 6: O Lord, stay close to me, be my rock, my shelter, my comfort.

All: Surround me with your love. 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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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;
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Readings: Mark 14: 1 – 15: 47 or Mark 15: 1–39 (shorter form).

Today's Daily Prayer – My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Today's prayer will focus on Good Friday. **Preparation:** Prepare the sacred space with a red cloth and appropriate symbols, e.g. palm branches, crown of thorns, large nails and hammer. 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.

Prayer of Forgiveness

Leader: Loving and compassionate God, you love us even when we fail to live in love. *(Pause)*
When we sit in judgement of others, Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: When we condemn others for not living up to our standards or expectations, Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: When we fail to welcome and accept others who are different from us, Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Gracious God, give us a heart of love and compassion, and a spirit of kindness and generosity, so that we may be slow to condemn and quick to understand. We ask this prayer in Jesus' name.

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: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.



Reader 1: Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.
(Pause)

Reader 2: When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?', which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Pause)

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. (Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Respond

Leader: Let us pray together the Responsorial Psalm.

Reader: Father, I put my life in your hands.

All: **Father, I put my life in your hands.**

Reader: In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me.
Into your hands I commend my spirit;
you will redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God.

All: **Father, I put my life in your hands.**

Reader: For all my foes I am an object of reproach,
a laughingstock to my neighbours, and a dread to my friends;
they who see me abroad flee from me.
I am forgotten like the unremembered dead;
I am like a dish that is broken.

All: **Father, I put my life in your hands.**

Reader: But my trust is in you, O Lord;
I say, 'You are my God.
In your hands is my destiny; rescue me
from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors.'

All: **Father, I put my life in your hands.**

Reader: Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your kindness.
Take courage and be stout-hearted,
all you who hope in the Lord.

All: **Father, I put my life in your hands.**

Time for quiet reflection ...



Go Forth

Suggested music for reflection:

- 'My God, my God' by Liam Lawton
- 'Be exalted O God' by John Michael Talbot.

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.

