

Daily Prayer

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B
The Year of Mark; Year of Prayer 2024



Readings: Acts 4: 8–12; Psalm 117: 1, 8–9, 21–23, 26, 28–29; 1 John 3: 1–2; John 10: 11–18.

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. Additional resources (apps, websites, music, videos) will be suggested for those wanting to enrich the prayers or to understand the readings at a deeper level.

The optional shorter prayer of the day is indicated by **green headings** on each day.

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – <i>White</i>	<i>I am the Good Shepherd, I know mine and mine know me.</i>	Gather Praying with the Gospel Reflection Go Forth Song
Tuesday – <i>White</i>	<i>The stone that was rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.</i>	Listen Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Respond Glory Be
Wednesday – <i>White</i>	<i>Above all, clothe yourselves in love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.</i>	Gather Prayer for Anzac Day Traditional Prayers Respond Wreath-laying or Candle-lighting
Thursday – <i>White</i> Anzac Day public holiday		
Friday – <i>White</i>	<i>There is no salvation through anyone else.</i>	Entrance Antiphon Praying with the First Reading Respond Go Forth



Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary or NRSV.

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

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



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Today's Daily Prayer – I am the Good Shepherd, I know my sheep and mine know me

Today's prayer will focus on the Gospel. **Preparation:** 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 their breath. 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.

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: The Fourth Sunday of Easter is called Good Shepherd Sunday, as the Gospel is always taken from John, chapter 10. It is also Vocations Sunday, a time when we focus on praying that the Church will be provided with the leaders that it needs to continue its mission of spreading the Gospel.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Jesus, you lead us to the Father.

All: You are the Good Shepherd.

Leader: Jesus, you feed us with your words.

All: You are the Good Shepherd.

Leader: Jesus, you protect us and keep us safe.

All: You are the Good Shepherd. Amen.

Background to the Gospel

In first-century Palestine, the people would have easily understood the image of a shepherd. The image of God as a shepherd would have been familiar to most Jewish people at the time of Jesus, as it is often referenced in the Hebrew Scriptures (e.g. Psalm 23). Many people relied on shepherding for their livelihood and would have known how important it was for a shepherd to know how many sheep he had, where they were and whether they were safe. He might even know them by name. A shepherd who owned the sheep would offer constant and unrelenting protection to them, even when they were threatened, because he had a vested interest in them. A man who was hired to look after the sheep would run away when there was danger because he did not own them.

Listen

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Reader: Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd.



A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
A hired man, who is not a shepherd
and whose sheep are not his own,
sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,
and the wolf catches and scatters them.
This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd,
and I know mine and mine know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;
and I will lay down my life for the sheep.
I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.
These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,
and there will be one flock, one shepherd.
This is why the Father loves me,
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.
I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.
This command I have received from my Father.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader: Good Shepherd Sunday is also called Vocations Sunday. Each one of us has a vocation, perhaps not for the religious life, but a path we can choose that is the best opportunity for us to witness to the message of the Gospel.

Let us take a few moments to reflect on these questions:

- Is what I am doing now what God wants me to be doing with my life?
- How is what I am doing giving witness to my Christian faith?
- What contribution am I offering to make this world a better place for people to live in?
- Where is God calling me to make my own unique contribution based on the talents he has given me?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Leader: Let us finish our prayer by singing together:
[‘Here I am, Lord’](#) by Dan Schutte (sung by Chris Bray).

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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Today's Daily Prayer – The stone that the builders have rejected has become the cornerstone

Today, we focus on the Responsorial Psalm. **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. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us attend to this moment. 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.

Leader: As we gather 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: Give us, O Lord, hearts full of compassion and justice.

All: Amen.

Leader: Give us, O Lord, hearts full of love and mercy.

All: Amen.

Background to the Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117 has some of the most recognised verses in Scripture. It is a hymn of praise and, therefore, is most appropriate to use in this Easter season. The psalm would have been said during the celebration of Passover and could also have been used at the Feast of Tabernacles. It is a royal psalm of praise which expresses gratitude to God for success in battle over the enemy. The psalmist makes some beautiful statements about putting his trust in God rather than in man, relying on God rather than men, and God being his strength and his salvation. He invokes the name of God over and over, emphasising that victory comes because of God, not through anything that man has done. He praises God, and calls on the people to rejoice and be thankful.

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: Let us pray together the Responsorial Psalm.

Reader: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

All: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.



Reader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in man.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

All: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Reader: I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and have been my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

All: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Reader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and have been my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his kindness endures forever.

All: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Respond

Leader: Let us respond to this psalm in song:

[‘Only in God’](#) by John Michael Talbot

[‘Give thanks to the Lord’](#) by Steve Angrisano and Brian Green.

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth from here praising God in all that we do and say.

All: 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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Today's Daily Prayer – Remembrance of Anzac Day

Preparation: For the 'Respond' section, you will need either six wreaths or six large candles. Choose readers, wreath layers or people to light the candles. All music needed for this prayer is available on www.anzacwebsites.com/sound/music.htm.

Wednesday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. 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.

Leader: Let us pause and call to mind God's loving presence within us and among us.

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: We come together to celebrate Anzac Day. We remember all those who have died in wars and conflicts around the world, and have made the ultimate sacrifice. With grateful hearts, we thank all those who gave their lives so that we may live in peace and freedom. We pray, also, for all those who have served in wars and conflicts, and thank them for their commitment. We pray that we work together in our own lives to build a peaceful community.

Listen

Leader: Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture.

Reader: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and,
if anyone has a complaint against another,
forgive each other;

just as the Lord has forgiven you,
so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful.

(Pause)



The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Wreath-laying or Candle-lighting

Leader: We will now lay wreaths (or light candles) to honour all those who have served in wars and conflicts, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

We lay a wreath/light a candle for those who have died. We thank them for their compassion, justice and desire for peace.

(Pause for wreath-laying/lighting of candle)

We lay a wreath/light a candle for those who have died. We thank them for their love and mercy.

(Pause for wreath-laying/lighting of candle)

We lay a wreath/light a candle for those who have died. We thank them for their loyalty and commitment.

(Pause for wreath-laying/lighting of candle)

We lay a wreath/light a candle for those who have died. We thank them for their service and dedication.

(Pause for wreath-laying/lighting of candle)

We lay a wreath/light a candle for those who have died. We thank them for their belief and hope in a brighter tomorrow.

(Pause for wreath-laying/lighting of candle)

We lay a wreath/light a candle for those who have died. We thank them for their bravery, desire for freedom and ultimate sacrifice.

(Pause for wreath-laying/lighting of candle)

I now ask everyone to stand. I invite *(name of person)* to read the Ode of Remembrance.

Reader: They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

Lest we forget.

All: Lest we forget.

(Playing of [The Last Post](#))

Leader: We will now have one minute's silence.

(Playing of [The Rouse](#))

Go Forth

Leader: Let us conclude by singing the [Australian National Anthem](#).

Let us go forth from here praising God in all that we do and say.

All: 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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Today's Daily Prayer – There is no salvation through anyone else

Today's prayer focuses on the First Reading. **Preparation:** 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 their breath. 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.

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 remember that we are still in the Easter season, a season of rejoicing, and so we pray with joyful hearts.

All: **The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.**

Background to the First Reading

This reading from the Acts of the Apostles takes place just after Peter had cured a crippled man, not long after the events of Pentecost. Peter had experienced 'metanoia', a Greek word that means a change of heart or spiritual conversion, and he calls on those present to experience it as well. Peter responds to the charges of the Jewish leaders by saying that only Jesus' name could save. By rejecting the ways of the world and by being baptised in Jesus' name, they would receive God's gift of the Spirit, which would give them the strength and courage to live a Christian life. When we are filled with the Spirit, we absorb it into ourselves so that we can do things we could never do alone.

Listen

Leader: Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture.

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said:

'Leaders of the people and elders:

If we are being examined today

about a good deed done to a cripple,

namely, by what means he was saved,

then all of you and all the people of Israel should know

that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene

whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead;



in his name this man stands before you healed.
He is the stone rejected by you, the builders,
which has become the cornerstone.
There is no salvation through anyone else,
nor is there any other name under heaven
given to the human race by which we are to be saved.'

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Leader: Let us reflect on that unusual word 'metanoia', meaning change of heart or spiritual conversion.

If we were to experience metanoia, what must we change in our lives?

Let us pray that we are filled with the Spirit, giving us the strength we need to change.

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Prayer of the Spirit

Leader: May we change our hearts and love you more.

All: Jesus, send us your Spirit.

Leader: May we change our minds and think of you more.

All: Jesus, send us your Spirit.

Leader: May we change our ways and live your message.

All: Jesus, send us your Spirit.

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)

Let us go forth from here praising God in all that we do and say.

All: 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.

