

Daily Prayer

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
The Year of Mark; Year of Prayer 2024



Readings: Isaiah 50: 5–9; Psalm 114: 1–6, 8–9; James 2: 14–18; Mark 8: 27–35.

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.

Readings this week

This week's readings deal with the meaning of 'Christ' or 'Messiah'. The reading from Isaiah and the psalm speak of the one who is anointed with oil, who has been promised to save the people, but who will also suffer. James calls us to express our faith in good deeds. In the Gospel, Peter rejects the idea that Jesus, who he has just identified as the Christ, could also be the suffering servant spoken of by Isaiah. This week, we grapple with the prospect of a suffering messiah.

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Green	<i>The Lord stands with his prophet during opposition.</i>	Listen First Reading Respond
Tuesday – Green	<i>I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.</i>	Listen Responsorial Psalm Respond Go Forth Our Father
Wednesday – Green	<i>Faith without action is useless.</i>	Gather Second Reading Respond Written Reflection Go Forth



Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Thursday – Green	<i>A follower of Christ must take up the cross.</i>	Gather Praying with the Gospel Respond Go Forth
Friday – Green	<i>My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.</i>	Listen Praying with the Gospel Respond Go Forth

Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) 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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Readings: Isaiah 50: 5–9; Psalm 114: 1–6, 8–9; James 2: 14–18; Mark 8: 27–35.

Today's Daily Prayer – The Lord stands with his prophet during opposition

Today, we will focus on the First Reading of Sunday. **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 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.

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.

Penitential Act

Leader: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to come into the Lord's presence.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: **For we have sinned against you.**

Leader: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All: **And grant us your salvation.**

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: **Amen.**

Background to the First Reading

This passage comes from one of the poems of the suffering servant from the prophet Isaiah. In these poems, a servant of the Lord endures various trials, and shows faith and confidence in the Lord. In the Christian tradition, these poems have been understood as foreshadowings of the Passion of Christ.

Listen

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

Reader: The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.



I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?

(Pause)

Respond

Leader: Let's spend some time in quiet contemplation of the Scripture. Consider the following questions:

1. How has God opened your ears to hear his voice in your life?
2. Reflect on a time when you chose to follow God's direction despite challenges. What helped you to stay obedient?
3. How does knowing that God is your helper give you strength and confidence to face difficult situations?

Go Forth

Leader: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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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Readings: Isaiah 50: 5–9; Psalm 114: 1–6, 8–9; James 2: 14–18; Mark 8: 27–35.

Today's Daily Prayer – I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living

Today, we will pray with 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.

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, may we open our hearts to the light of Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Background to the Responsorial Psalm

The psalm is a song of thanksgiving and a good example of how the authors shaped the psalms so that worshippers could apply them to a variety of situations. The focus of the psalm is that, while there may be various challenges and times of deep distress in one's life, we should always feel confident that we can turn to God in prayer and he will answer us.

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: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

All: **I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

Reader: I love the Lord for he has heard
the cry of my appeal;
for he turned his ear to me
in the day when I called him.

All: **I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**



Reader: They surrounded me, the snares of death,
with anguish of the tomb;
they caught me, sorrow and distress.
I called on the Lord's name.
O Lord, my God, deliver me!

All: **I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

Reader: How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me.

All: **I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

Reader: He has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears
and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

All: **I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**

Respond

Leader: Let us take time to reflect on God's presence in our lives.

Litany inspired by the psalm

Leader: Let's continue briefly with the theme of the psalm.

Reader: In all that surrounds me,

All: **I hear your voice, Lord.**

Reader: In all those who love me,

All: **I hear your voice, Lord.**

Reader: In the cry of the poor,

All: **I hear your voice, Lord.**

Reader: In all that inhabits the waters,

All: **I hear your voice, Lord.**

Reader: In all that inhabits the land,

All: **I hear your voice, Lord.**

Reader: In all that I say and do,

All: **I hear your voice, Lord.**

Time of reflective silence ...

Go Forth

Leader: Let us pray the Lord's Prayer and then offer each other a sign of peace.

All: **Our Father ...**

(Sign of peace)

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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Readings: Isaiah 50: 5–9; Psalm 114: 1–6, 8–9; James 2: 14–18; Mark 8: 27–35.

Today's Daily Prayer – Faith without action is useless

Today's prayer will focus on the Second Reading. **Preparation:** Provide paper and writing equipment for those gathered; if students have prayer journals, encourage them to use these. 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. 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.

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.

Collect (opening prayer) of Sunday

Leader: Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Background to the Second Reading

At the beginning of this letter, James addresses himself to the 12 tribes of Israel scattered among the nations. James has a particular concern for the poor in the community and encourages believers to allow their faith to move them to action for the good of others.

Listen

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

Reader: A reading from the letter of St James.



Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Respond

Written reflection

Leader: Saint James teaches us that faith without good works is dead. Let us take some time to reflect on these words from Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who tells us that even the smallest things, done with love, are indeed God's work and are acts of faith:

'Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.'

Take some time to slowly re-read the words of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux and to think about them. From the words, write in your prayer journal or on the paper provided.

Reflect on these words during the day; let them inspire and direct your choices.

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Blessing of Aaron

Leader: May the Lord bless us and keep us.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord turn his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord think kindly of us and give us his peace.

All: **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 – A follower of Christ must take up the cross

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about his future suffering and death. **Preparation:** 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. 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.

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: As we enter the Season of Creation, let us remind ourselves that we are called to be stewards of creation.

Pope Francis has suggested that many Christians need 'an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience' (*Laudato Si'*, n. 217).

Light candle and pause.

Leader: God of our journey, God of love,
we give you thanks and praise, as we gather together today.

May all who are part of this community encounter Jesus and respond to the call to both a conversion of heart and an 'ecological conversion'.

This we pray in Jesus' name.

All: **Amen.**

Background to the Gospel

This story marks a turning point in the Gospel of Mark. When Peter responds to Jesus' question, 'who do you say I am?' by identifying Jesus as 'the Christ', it is the first time that anyone has correctly described Jesus. The Jewish people at this time were waiting for a saviour who they called 'the Messiah', which in Greek is the Christ. Peter recognises that Jesus is the saviour, but he still does not understand how Jesus will be a saviour. Peter's idea may be more of a glorious heroic figure, of whom the disciples could then be famous and important friends, but this was not Jesus' vision of his role. Jesus was focused on discerning his own vocation and what God might be wanting.



When Jesus speaks of travelling to Jerusalem and what awaits him there, it is not some special ability to tell the future, but instead an awareness of the reality of the way that his teachings challenged the authority of the religious leaders of the time. Jerusalem was the centre of their religious authority and power, and by going there Jesus was placing himself in danger.

Listen

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

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

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

(Pause)

Respond

Litany of creation

Leader: The response to the psalm of Sunday reads, 'I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living'. What does it mean to walk in the presence of the Lord? And how do I walk in the presence of the Lord?

Reader: In the beauty of creation ...

All: **I walk in the presence of the Lord.**

Reader: In the love for family and friends ...

All: **I walk in the presence of the Lord.**

Reader: In my gift of love to others ...

All: **I walk in the presence of the Lord.**

Reader: In my openness to others ...

All: **I walk in the presence of the Lord.**

Reader: In noticing and attending to the suffering of others ...

All: **I walk in the presence of the Lord.**

Reader: In loving without hope of love returned ...

All: **I walk in the presence of the Lord.**

Reader: In noticing and attending to the suffering of our earth ...

All: **I walk in the presence of the Lord.**

Reader: (Invite others to contribute to the litany)

All: **I walk in the presence of the Lord.**



Go Forth

Glory be

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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Readings: Isaiah 50: 5–9; Psalm 114: 1–6, 8–9; James 2: 14–18; Mark 8: 27–35.

Today's Daily Prayer – My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

Today's prayer will focus on the Gospel from last Sunday. **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 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.

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.

Entrance Antiphon

Leader: Let us pray the Entrance Antiphon from Sunday's liturgy.

All: **Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.**

Listen

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'



He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

(Pause)

Respond

Reflective questions

Leader: Let us spend some time reflecting on the words of the Gospel. (Pause)

1. Reflect on the significance of Jesus predicting his suffering, rejection, death and resurrection. How does this prophecy shape your understanding of his mission and sacrifice?
2. How do you reconcile the concept of a suffering messiah with your own expectations of Jesus' role in your life?

Share your reflections with the person sitting next to you.

Go Forth

Leader: Loving God, grant us the courage to accept your plans, even when they involve suffering and sacrifice. Help us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus daily. May we have the strength to let go of our own desires and concerns, and to align our hearts and minds to your divine purpose.

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)

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.**

