

# Daily Prayer

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



**Readings:** Isaiah 53: 10–11; Psalm 32: 4–5, 18–20, 22; Hebrews 4: 14–16; Mark 10: 42–45.

## 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 special 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 are about the price of discipleship. In the First Reading it is the image of the suffering servant who metaphorically takes on the sins of the whole community. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the kingdom of God is about servant leadership. Fortunately, the psalm and the second reading assure us that if we take on that role, we will never be alone – God is faithful to those who revere him.

## Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Green	<i>Through suffering, the Lord offers his life.</i>	Praying with the First Reading. <a href="#">Listen, Go Forth.</a>
Tuesday – Green	<i>Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.</i>	Praying with the Responsorial Psalm. <a href="#">Listen, Go Forth.</a>
Wednesday - Green	<i>Jesus faced the same temptations as us.</i>	Praying with the Second reading. Prayers of the Faithful. <a href="#">Go Forth.</a>
Thursday - Green	<i>Whoever aspires to greatness must serve the rest.</i>	Praying with the Gospel. Gospel Acclamation. Written reflection. <a href="#">Gather, Go Forth.</a>
Friday – Green	<i>The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for all.</i>	Praying with the Gospel. <a href="#">Listen &amp; Respond, Go Forth.</a>

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](#).



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**Today's Daily Prayer – Through suffering, the Lord offers his life.**

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 may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

#### The 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:** We light this candle and pray that our hearts are open to God's will in our lives.

**All:** Amen.

### Background to the First Reading

*This reading from the prophet Isaiah was probably written at the end of the Babylonian exile and speaks of a suffering servant who takes upon himself the suffering of many for the good of the whole community. Although Isaiah never names the servant, it is possibly a figure who lived in the Exile and metaphorically carried Israel's suffering. The Israelites in captivity were broken and beaten down but hoped that one day they would be raised up. The servant embodied this feeling. As Christians we can see many parallels with the person of Christ and readings from Isaiah are used during the Holy Week liturgies.*

### 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 prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture.



**Reader:**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering.

If he offers his life in atonement,

he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life

and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over

he shall see the light and be content.

By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,

taking their faults on himself.

*Pause*

*The Word of the Lord*

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

## Respond

Let us respond to this reading in song.

*Lord, Let Your Mercy be Upon Us* by Josh Blakesley OR

*Psalm 33: Lord, Let Your Mercy* by Bob Dufford

*Pause*

## Go Forth

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

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

**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 candles 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 53: 10–11; Psalm 32: 4–5, 18–20, 22; Hebrews 4: 14–16; Mark 10: 42–45.

**Today's Daily Prayer** – Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

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 may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

### The 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, we praise you, God, for who you are, not for what you can do. We place our trust in you and believe in your everlasting love and mercy.

**All:** Amen.

### Background to the Responsorial Psalm

*This psalm is a hymn of praise beginning with praising God for who God is, not for what God has done. God is all-powerful and all-loving, and his word is faithful and true, just and right. The psalm then goes on to describe all that God has done in creating the world. It describes how God blessed those who remained faithful to him. It concludes with a blessing on all those who remained in covenant with God and continued to have hope and trust.*

### 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:** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**All:** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**Reader:** The word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love.

**All:** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.



**Reader:** The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love.  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

**All:** **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

**Reader:** Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.

**All:** **Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.**

*Pause*

## Respond

**Leader:** I invite you to re-read the psalm and find the words that speak most clearly to you.  
(Pause)

Each person present is invited to say those words out loud and we will pause between each one and respond with these words: **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

## Go Forth

**Leader:** Let us go forth from here remembering that we can place our trust in God – a God who is filled with justice, mercy and compassion.

**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 candles 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 53: 10–11; Psalm 32: 4–5, 18–20, 22; Hebrews 4: 14–16; Mark 10: 42–45.

**Today's Daily Prayer – Jesus faced the same temptations as us.**

Today's prayer will focus on the Second Reading. **Preparation:** 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 may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

### The 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 Sunday's liturgy.

**All:** To you I call; for you will surely hear me, O God;  
turn your ear to me, hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

### Background to the Second Reading

*A very important part of Jewish life would be going to the Temple to offer sacrifice. The gifts that the worshipper would bring could include sheep, goats, doves and the offerings of wheat or the first fruits of the harvest. They would offer them in thanks or to seek forgiveness for sins. The High Priest, the one who would do the sacrificing on behalf of a person, would be well known. This type of sacrificing was also common in Roman and Greek cultures.*

### 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 prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture.

**Reader:** A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin.



Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

*Pause*

*The Word of the Lord*

**ALL: Thanks be to God**

## Respond

**Leader:** When talking about his creative writing, the Pakistani novelist Mohsin Hamid said, 'Empathy is about finding echoes of another person in yourself'. In this reading, we are reminded that because God became human in the person of Jesus, we can confidently approach him, as he can understand and empathise with us. Just like a true and loyal friend we can pour out our hearts to Jesus and know that he listens with love and kindness. Let us take some time to reflect on this.

*Time for quiet reflection.*

## Go Forth

**Leader:** Let us pray this prayer together.

**All:**       **Loving God, may I trust that you are with me  
in all my trials and sufferings,  
in my joys and triumphs,  
in the daily grind of my life,  
in my ordinary, everyday existence,  
when I am tired and weary,  
when I am peaceful and content.  
In my waking and sleeping,  
be with me, Lord, and keep me going. Amen.**

*Pause*

**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 candles 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 53: 10–11; Psalm 32: 4–5, 18–20, 22; Hebrews 4: 14–16; Mark 10: 42–45.

**Today's Daily Prayer – Whoever aspires to greatness must serve the rest.**

Today's prayer focuses on the gospel. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to 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 may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

#### The 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 that we adopt the heart and mind of a servant, willing to see to the needs of others first and to be generous with our time and our gifts.

**All:** Amen.

#### Background to the Gospel

*At the time of Jesus, Israel was occupied by the forces of Rome and they were deeply despised by the population. Many dreamed of a day when the Romans would be overthrown, and the Israelites would take back their land. When Jesus speaks of the coming of the kingdom, his followers believe he is talking of such a revolution and James and John want to get in early to book their places to share in the power and glory. But Jesus tells them that great leaders are firstly great servants.*

### 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 prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture, today's reading is from Sunday's Gospel, the Gospel of Mark.

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Son of Man came to serve  
and to give his life as a ransom for all.  
Alleluia!



**Reader:**

Jesus called his disciples to him and said to them: 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

*Pause*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Respond

**Leader:** Let us respond in song as we are reminded what it means to be a servant to others.

*The Servant Song* by Richard Gillard

*Here I am, Lord* by Dan Schutte

*Time for quiet reflection.*

## Go Forth

**Leader:** Let us pray this prayer together.

**All:**       **Loving God, give me the heart of a servant,  
That I may give before I receive,  
That I may offer before I ask,  
That I may understand before being understood,  
That I may show mercy before I am offered it,  
That I may love first with all my heart and soul.  
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 candles 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 53: 10–11; Psalm 32: 4–5, 18–20, 22; Hebrews 4: 14–16; Mark 10: 42–45.

**Today's Daily Prayer – The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for all.**

Today's prayer will focus on the Gospel from last Sunday. **Preparation:** Choose readers and a person 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 may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.*

#### The 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 gather to pray today, let us open our hearts, so that God's heart can speak to ours.

**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:** Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture, today's reading is from Sunday's Gospel, the Gospel of Mark.

**Reader:** Jesus called his disciples to him and said to them: 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

*Pause*

The Gospel of the Lord

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### Respond

#### Reflective Questions

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



1. Jesus introduces the concept of servant leadership, where true greatness is found serving others. Consider areas in your life where you hold influence or authority. How can you embody servant leadership in these areas?
2. Are there areas where you struggle to embrace this call to servanthood?
3. What steps can you take to align more closely with this teaching?

Share your reflections with the person sitting next to you.

## Go Forth

**Leader:** Lord Jesus,

You came not to be served but to serve, teach me the true meaning of greatness. Help me to humble myself, to put others before me and to lead with a heart of a servant. Grant me the grace to give selflessly, just as you gave your life for many. Transform my heart to reflect your love and humility in all I do.

**All:** Amen.

### The 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.)*

**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 candles and pause.*

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

