

Daily Prayer

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Readings: Acts 10: 34: 37–43; Psalm 117: 1–2, 16–17, 22–23, R.v 24; Colossians 3: 1–4; John 20: 1–9, Luke 24: 1–12 or Luke 24:13–35.

Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

Source: [Jubilee Resource Pack for Parishes](#)

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years...

Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believes that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wants everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35–39)—can breathe life back into weary souls.

This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5).



For this reason, the most striking part of the logo for this jubilee is the cross: bending towards humanity and forming an anchor, it depicts the cross as something to cling to, especially in rough seas. It is a contemporary 'riff' on an old biblical image. The epistle to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in Christ as 'an anchor of the soul, as sure as it is firm' (6:19).

The cross is not a dead symbol from the past. It is a living sign of God's unfathomable love, and one that carries us together in pilgrimage towards heaven.

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 crucifix, a candle, and flowers. Additional resources (apps, websites, music,

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videos) will be suggested for those wanting to enrich the prayers or to understand the readings at a deeper level.

The Year of Luke

The Gospel readings for this Year C are taken from the Gospel of Luke and the Church has now entered the Season of Lent.

The Sunday Gospel for this week is Jesus is tempted in the desert.

Daily Prayer will invite those gathered to participate in prayer rituals and respond respectfully in a prayerful context. This week is about setting up for success in a way that those gathered will become comfortable with the structure, the responses, the gestures, the prayers and the symbols. Daily Prayer will be a time when all feel welcomed and valued.

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers, and Forms of Prayer
Monday – White	<i>Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty.</i>	Gospel and reflection <u>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</u> <u>The Season of Easter</u>
Tuesday – White	<i>See and believe</i>	Gospel Ignatian Lectio
Wednesday – White	<i>This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.</i>	Responsorial Psalm
Thursday – White	<i>Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.</i>	Second reading, reflection
Friday – White	<i>Love one another as I have loved you</i>	Gospel and Prayers of the Faithful <u>Anzac Day Commemoration Service</u>

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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Monday

Today's Daily Prayer – Easter Sunday morning , the empty tomb.

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light the candle.

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 may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: We gather together in God's presence to pray, let us make the sign of the cross.
(Pause)

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

Background to the Gospel

Leader:

Easter, the Paschal feast, is the pinnacle of the church liturgical year. We as a faith community celebrate LIGHT. Jesus the light of the world conquers darkness and is raised from the dead. Jesus is the sign that humanity has passed through death and that humanity can be imbued with God's divine life. So Resurrection is not just a celebration for what happened to Jesus – if it were only that, then Easter would be just a nostalgic memory. Easter celebrates that we also, right now, through the Risen One, can participate in Divine life. So Easter is as much about us, as it is about Jesus. (Coloe) <https://liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2025Apr20/0/ComMaCol>

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 Holy Gospel according to John. (pause)

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on



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the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw, and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.



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Reflect

Leader:

Even though the apostles spent so much time with Jesus, listened to all of his teachings, loved him dearly as a friend and a revered teacher they did not understand the sacred and most powerful message he had to teach them, there IS life after death!

Easter is the celebration of the Paschal mystery which is the life, death AND resurrection of Jesus this is what we believe in as Christians.

Take a few moments to imagine the scene at the empty tomb, how would you react to the sight of the empty tomb?

Amidst grief, loss and confusion would you assess the scene through eyes of faith?

The beloved disciple that we know as John was able to see the signs of the divine amidst the chaos and with an open heart have the faith to believe in the conquering power of life over death.

Take a couple of minutes to reflect on times in your life when you have been able to experience resurrection in your life.

How did the light seep/ shine/burst through the darkness?

Go Forth

Leader:

Gracious God, give us hearts of faith so we too may see and believe especially in challenging times. May our hearts be full of the hope and joy this Easter season promises and may we journey forward in peace.

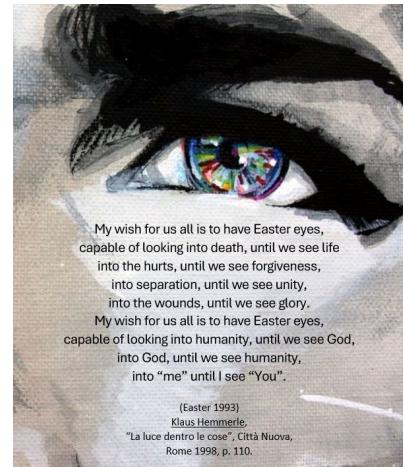
Pope Francis tells us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)

Let us go forth this Easter sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.

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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Tuesday

Today's Daily Prayer - See and believe

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light the candle.

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 focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

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

Light candle and pause.

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 of John

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said, 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So, Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw, and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

(Pause)

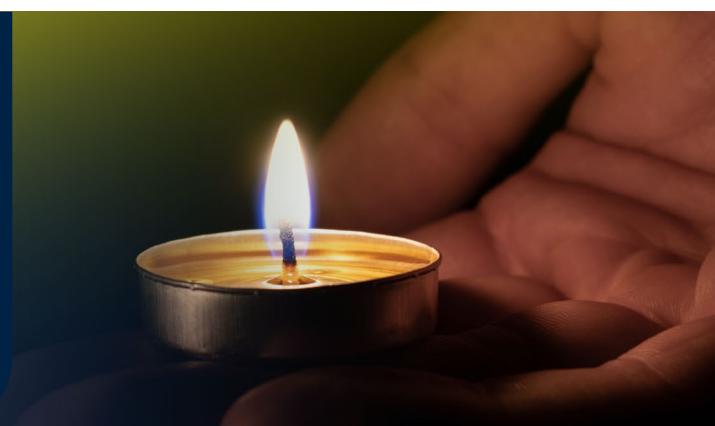
The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.



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Respond

Ignatian Lectio

Leader:

Choose one of the characters in the Gospel. What would you ask of or say to that character if you were given the chance to speak with them alone?

(Pause for some reflection time.)

Share your response with others present.

Go Forth

Leader:

Touch our hearts, O Lord, so that we may see through eyes of faith .

Direct our gaze and focus on the light so we may give honour and praise to you through our lives.

Pope Francis tells us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.”

[Source](#)

Let us go forth in this Easter season afresh sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.

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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Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer - This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light a candle.

We 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 to focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

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

Light candle and pause.

Listen

Leader: Today we focus on the Responsorial Psalm.

If possible, read from a lectionary or Bible. When proclaiming the Word of God, read slowly and clearly. The text should be treated with reverence and respect.

Reader: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (R)

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)	2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed. his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. (R.)	3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. (R.)
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Respond

Leader: It is very easy to take things for granted and to completely forget all that we experience in life is a gift – a gift from God. Think of three things you are grateful for today

Share with the person next to you.



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Go Forth

Leader:

Loving God, your generous and abundant love is showering us with gifts throughout each and every day.

Thank you for all that you give us, always close to us, if we but see we with eyes of faith.

Help us to share our gifts freely especially with those less fortunate than ourselves

Pope Francis tells us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.”

[Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing our gifts and talents with all those we meet helping to build up God's love in our fractured world.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

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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Thursday

Today's Daily Prayer – Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle,

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 to focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

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 listen with our hearts to what God asks of 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:

Today we will focus on the second reading where Saint Paul asks us to look for the things that are in heaven because that is where Christ is.

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

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

(Pause)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



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Respond

Looking for the heavenly things in our day takes a trained eye. We need to focus on goodness, simplicity, peace, joy, calm not chaos, gentleness, patience, beauty, wonder, awe.

Sit quietly for a moment, notice your breathing, lower your eyelids and become aware of your surroundings. As you sit and calm your mind think back over the past twenty-four hours – where have you witnessed moments of heaven?

Slowly relive these moments, what happened, who was involved, where were you?

Thank God for these moments of grace.



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Go Forth

Leader: Loving God, we are reminded of your constant presence in our lives. Help us to be open and ready to experience moments of grace when they present themselves.

Pope Francis tells us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing the light of hope a grace filled life can offer.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

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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Friday

Today's Daily Prayer – Love one another as I have loved you

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

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 focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross. (Pause)

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

Light candle and pause.

Listen

Leader: Today is ANZAC Day, a day we remember and honour all those who have served in Australia and New Zealand's armed forces. It is a national day of remembrance for victims of war and a time to reflect on the sacrifices of those who served and their families who have supported them. As we listen to the scripture we pray for peace and an end to all war and conflict that continue to disrupt communities across the world.



<https://pixabay.com/photos/anzac-soldier-soldiers-friendship-2739883/>

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Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master’s business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



<https://pixabay.com/photos/australia-army-anzac-memorial-1368711/>

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Respond

Leader: Now we place our needs and prayers before the Father, in the confident hope that they will be heard and answered.

Reader 1:

We pray for those men and women who have died protecting Australia.

Lord, grant eternal rest to those who have sacrificed their lives for the good of us all. May their gift of life not be in vain.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 1:

We pray for the families of those who have died.

Lord, grant comfort and hope to the families of those who have died defending us. May your love heal the hurt and bring peace to their lives.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 1:

We pray for our country.

Lord, grant our leaders the wisdom and strength to avoid wars in the future. May they guide us in the ways of peace and justice.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2:

We pray for our Church.

Lord may the Church be to all an example of peace and co-operation. May it bring love where there is strife, and healing where there is hurt.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.



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Reader 2:

We pray for our school.

Lord, send your healing love to rest on us all: students who are struggling, parents who are hurting, teachers who must persevere.

Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, may those who have died for freedom, be granted eternal comfort and peace. Bring love where there is war and may war never again shatter our world.

We offer our prayers for all communities who are affected by war at present (*pause*)

Fill us with your love, and grant us your peace.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Go Forth

Leader: Pope Francis tells us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing God’s peace and hope in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.

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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