

Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word

Commemorating the Holy Father



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Opening Prayer

God of life, we come together to pray in thanksgiving for the life of Pope Francis and his entrance into Heaven. Open our hearts to your Word in the Gospel so that we might walk ever closer to Jesus Christ as Pope Francis did in his life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 24:13 – 16, 28 - 35)

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening,' they said, 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection

'Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!' (Pope Francis, 2013, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 3)

'Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force.' (Pope Francis, 2013, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 276)

Prayer of the Faithful

For Pope Francis, who proclaimed the joy of the Gospel, that the merciful Lord, Jesus Christ, may accompany him to our heavenly homeland. Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer**

For the Church, having been led by Pope Francis, that we can now continue to listen to the Holy Spirit in our lives to hear God's call for the future. Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer**

For Christians everywhere, that the life of Pope Francis can continue to inspire greater closeness to Christ in our earthly lives. Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer**

That the tireless efforts of Pope Francis, now called to the Lord, may bear fruit in unity, peace, and love among all men and women. Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer**

For the sick, that they may be comforted by their loved ones and accompanied in their time of distress, taking hope and inspiration from Pope Francis' trials in his illness. Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer**

For all those who have died, that they too may share in Christ's resurrection and enter joyfully into heaven with Pope Francis. Lord, hear us. **Lord hear our prayer**

Closing Prayer

God, in your wisdom you chose Pope Francis to be your servant and lead your Church on earth. We give thanks for his faithful service to your Son, Jesus Christ, in his time on earth as priest, bishop, and pope. Having served your Church in his life, we pray that he may now share fully in the Easter mystery, the resurrection of Christ and his entrance into heaven. We make this prayer through Christ our lord.

Amen

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Prayers of the Faithful adopted from USCCB, *Liturgical Notes and Musical Resources for Use Upon the Death of Pope Francis*, 2025. <https://www.usccb.org/resources/liturgical-notes-pope-francis-ENG.pdf>



Other Useful Prayers and Quotes

‘Christ is risen! These words capture the whole meaning of our existence, for we were not made for death but for life. Easter is the celebration of life! God created us for life and wants the human family to rise again! In his eyes, every life is precious! The life of a child in the mother’s womb, as well as the lives of the elderly and the sick, who in more and more countries are looked upon as people to be discarded.’ (Pope Francis, 2025, *Urbi et Orbi*)

‘We think that God is to be found in the beyond, on another level of reality, far removed from our everyday relationships ... Christians, on the contrary, profess their faith in God’s tangible and powerful love which really does act in history and determines its final destiny: a love that can be encountered, a love fully revealed in Christ’s passion, death and resurrection.’ (Pope Francis, 2013, *Lumen Fidei*, 17)

‘Mother, help our faith! Open our ears to hear God’s word and to recognize his voice and call. Awaken in us a desire to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive his promise. Help us to be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith. Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature. Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One. Remind us that those who believe are never alone. Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!’ (Pope Francis, 2013, *Lumen Fidei*, 60)

‘If you have lost your inner vitality, your dreams, your enthusiasm, your optimism and your generosity, Jesus stands before you as once he stood before the dead son of the widow, and with all the power of his resurrection he urges you: “Young man, I say to you, arise!” (Lk 7:14).’ (Pope Francis, 2019, *Christus Vivit*, 20)

‘Lord Jesus, help us to see in your Cross all the crosses of the world:
the cross of people hungry for bread and for love;
the cross of people alone and abandoned even by their children and kin;
the cross of people thirsty for justice and for peace;
the cross of people who lack the comfort of faith;
the cross of the elderly who struggle under the weight of years and of loneliness;
the cross of migrants who find doors closed in fear and hearts armoured by political calculations;
the cross of little ones, wounded in their innocence and their purity;
the cross of humanity that wanders in the darkness of uncertainty and in the obscurity of temporary culture;
the cross of families split by betrayal, by the seductions of the evil one or by homicidal levity and selfishness;
the cross of consecrated people who tirelessly seek to bring your light into the world and feel rejected, derided and humiliated;
the cross of consecrated people who, along the way, have forgotten their first love;
the cross of your children who, while believing in you and seeking to live according to your word, find themselves marginalized and rejected even by their families and their peers;
the cross of our weaknesses, of our hypocrisy, of our betrayals, of our sins and of our many broken promises;
the cross of your Church that, faithful to your Gospel, struggles to spread your love even among the baptized themselves;
the cross of the Church, your Bride, that feels constantly assailed from within and without;
the cross of our common home that is gravely withering before our selfish eyes, blinded by greed and by power.
Lord Jesus, revive in us the hope of resurrection and of your definitive victory over all evil and all death. Amen!’ (Pope Francis, 2019)



Staff Prayer

Prayer and Reflection to commemorate the Holy Father:

[Executive Director Post](#)

[Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne Statement](#)

We Give Thanks and Remember Pope Francis

Introduction

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

Opening Hymn

(Psalm) [The Lord is my Shepherd](#)

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

[Mt 5:1-12](#)

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown to them.

Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord,

ALL: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ



Prayers of Intercession

Reader 1: Let us pray for Pope Francis, may our Lord carry him into the warmth, love, mercy and light of your presence.

We pray to the Lord

All: Lord Hear our Prayer

Reader 2: Let us pray for the whole Church as she joyfully celebrates the resurrection of the Lord, Archbishop Peter Comensoli and all the clergy; and for all God's holy and priestly people.

We pray to the Lord

All: Lord Hear our Prayer

Reader 3: Let us pray for the cardinals, who will soon gather to choose a successor. May they continue to listen to the Holy Spirit and hear God's call for the future.

We pray to the Lord

All: Lord Hear our Prayer

Reader 4: Let us pray for all nations and generations, to whom Christ's resurrection offers the fullness of salvation; for peace throughout the world and in the Holy Land, and for those who are experiencing natural disasters and violence.

We pray to the Lord

All: Lord Hear our Prayer

Reader 5: Let us pray for our school and parish communities, as they commence Term Two, may they gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus; nurturing faith and the call of God for all who seek God's guidance in their lives.

We pray to the Lord

All: Lord Hear our Prayer

Reader 6: Let us pray for those separated from family and loved ones, especially those serving abroad, for all who have died recently, and for all who mourn.

We pray to the Lord

All: Lord Hear our Prayer

Let us pause and remember our Holy Father with a moment of silence.



Closing Prayer

Reader 7:

God, in your wisdom you chose Pope Francis to be your servant and lead your Church on earth. We give thanks for his faithful service to your Son, Jesus Christ, in his time on earth as priest, bishop, and pope. Having served your Church in his life, we pray that he may now share fully in the Easter mystery, the resurrection of Christ and his entrance into heaven.

Together we pray...

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through mercy of God, rest in peace.

Holy Mary, Mother of God - pray for us

Saint Francis of Assisi - pray for us

