

Daily Prayer

Second Sunday of Lent Year A

The Year of Matthew,

Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 32:4-5, 18-20, 22 R. v.22; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

The Year of Matthew and Jubilee Year of Saint Francis

On January 10, 2026, Pope Leo XIV inaugurated the special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis. This special Jubilee Year commemorates the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's death. (Refer to the [Vatican News](#) link for further details.)

You may like to share Sister Rita's, first [MacKa Moment video](#) for 2026 on The Year of Saint Francis Assisi with your teachers, leaders, students and families.

Sister Rita is a [Sister of Saint Joseph](#), who supports our schools and parishes with the [Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre](#) in East Melbourne.

Further, locally, the theme for Catholic Education Week 2026 is [Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of Saint Patrick](#). For further details about the theme, please refer to page 2 our [Liturgical Calendar](#).

The Gospel readings for this Year A are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, and the Church is currently celebrating the Season of Lent.

Every day of the week, 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.

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.



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Overview of the Week

The Gospel readings for this Year A are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, and the Church is currently celebrating the Season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for Easter.

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Violet	<i>The Transfiguration</i>	Gospel Visio Divina
Tuesday– Violet	<i>Project compassion</i>	Sign of Peace
Wednesday – Violet	<i>Feast of Saint Casimir</i>	Gospel of the day, Sign of Peace
Thursday– Violet	<i>The call of Abram, the Father of God's people</i>	First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Sign of Peace
Friday – Violet	<i>World Day of Prayer</i>	Scripture reflection

Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) or the NRSV.

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

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



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Today's Daily Prayer – The Transfiguration

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle. Provide hard copies of the image or project the image using audio visual technology.

Monday

Gather

Leader: We now prepare our minds and bodies for prayer.

Let us be silent ... *(Pause)*

Let us be still ... *(Pause)*

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

Light candle and pause.

Background to the Sunday Gospel

In the Gospel, Jesus goes with Peter, James, and John to a mountain. An amazing thing happens and Jesus seems to become like a very bright light. The disciples hear a reminder from God to listen to what Jesus has to say. 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' We read that his friends became frightened, but Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Stand up and do not be afraid.' God says to each one of us, 'Listen to Jesus!' and Jesus encourages us to 'Stand up and do not be afraid.'

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: Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone.
There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light.
Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him.
Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'
He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.'
When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear.
But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.
As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'



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(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Respond

Praying with an Image: Transfiguration by John Meng-Frecker

Leader: Today we will pray with an artwork of Christ in the desert. This will lead us to reconnect with the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent (Matthew 4: 1–11) of which we just heard.

Let us spend a few moments in quiet prayer with our eyes closed.

Bring yourself towards stillness.

Open your eyes and gaze at the image. Let your eyes rest on the characters and objects.

Note your feelings as you examine the whole and parts of the work.



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Leader:

Gaze back at the artwork again.

Imagine that you are in this scene. What do you see from your vantage point?

What can you hear? Smell? Sense?

How is the sacred present to you in this experience?

How does this Visio Divina relate to your life now?

What insight from this experience do you want to retain? How will you do that?

(Time for silent prayer)

Leader:

Jesus, you have known us from the beginning of time, you have known us in the depths of our dreams and in the darkness of our shame, you know us as your beloved.

Help us to own that core identity more and more in this season of repentance and mercy. Give us the rock-solid assurance of your unwavering faith in us as we seek the same in you.

Go Forth

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: Pray for us.

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: Pray for us.

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

(Extinguish candle and pause.)

Suggested Additional Resources

[Religious Artworks Scripture – Transfiguration artwork.](#)



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Readings: Genesis 12: 1–4; Psalm 32: 4–5, 18–20, 22; 2 Timothy 1: 8–10; Matthew 17: 1–9

Today's Daily Prayer – Project Compassion

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle. You will need: access to audio visual equipment to display the Project Compassion clip.

Tuesday

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.

Leader: We now prepare our minds and bodies for prayer.

Let us be silent ... *(Pause)*

Let us be still ... *(Pause)*

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Today our focus for prayer will be Project Compassion. Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. It is a concrete way of drawing on the faith, love and generosity of Catholics and caring supporters throughout Australia to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

Watch

Leader: Let us reflect on the work of project Compassion and what it means to support them this Lent. [Monoranjon from Bangladesh](#) is one of the people who has been influenced by the work of Project Compassion. As you watch this clip consider your own life and how it may be similar or different from the lives of the people in this story.

Reflect

Leader: Why should we try to create a fairer world?

What can we do this Lent to try to make a difference in the world?



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Respond

Leader: God of love, we remember that on the night before he died Your son, Jesus, prayed that his friends 'may all be one.' Yet we see so much division in the world. Millions of people suffer when they don't have what they need: food, water, healthcare, education and security. We pray that we may all unite against poverty this Lent, as our sign of hope for a better world. This Lent we pray that our dedication to prayer, fasting and almsgiving will help restore your vision of justice and peace.

All: Amen.

Go Forth

Offering the Sign of Peace

When offering the Sign of Peace, participants might like to say the name of the person, looking at them with friendly eyes, speaking the words in a clear voice – 'Peace be with you' – while intentionally shaking their hand in a respectful manner. The words and action are like a prayer for others.

Leader: Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace

(Time for Sign of Peace to be exchanged)

Signal for Sign of Peace to come to a conclusion and for people to sit in silent prayer and reflection.

(Time for silent reflection)

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: Pray for us.

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: Pray for us.

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

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Genesis 12: 1–4; Psalm 32: 4–5, 18–20, 22; 2 Timothy 1: 8–10; Matthew 17: 1–9

Today's Daily Prayer – Feast of Saint Casimir

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 their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We now prepare our minds and bodies for prayer.

Let us be silent ... *(Pause)*

Let us be still ... *(Pause)*

We will make the Sign of the Cross slowly and reverently.

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 the day that the Catholic Church celebrates Saint Casimir, the patron saint of Poland and Lithuania. He was known for his charity and devotion to Mary.

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 Gospel of John.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.



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You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Leader: We pray for guidance from Saint Casimir, who at an early age fell in love with God and the Blessed Virgin Mary. He prayed to them unceasingly and devoted his life to their service. We ask Saint Casimir to pray for us, that we will avoid temptation in this world, keeping our eyes fixed on Heaven.

All: Amen.

Go Forth

Offering the Sign of Peace

When offering the Sign of Peace, participants might like to say the name of the person, looking at them with friendly eyes, speaking the words in a clear voice – ‘Peace be with you’ – while intentionally shaking their hand in a respectful manner. The words and action are like a prayer for others.

Leader: Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace
(Time for Sign of Peace to be exchanged)

Signal for Sign of Peace to come to a conclusion and for people to sit in silent prayer and reflection.

(Time for silent reflection)

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: Pray for us.

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: Pray for us.

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

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Genesis 12: 1–4; Psalm 32: 4–5, 18–20, 22; 2 Timothy 1: 8–10; Matthew 17: 1–9

Today's Daily Prayer – Being Holy

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle. You may like to provide copies of the psalm for all to respond.

Thursday

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. .

Leader: We now prepare our minds and bodies for prayer.

Let us be silent ... *(Pause)*

Let us be still ... *(Pause)*

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Today's prayer will be a time to listen to last Sunday's First Reading from Genesis about 'The Call of Abram'. Those gathered will be invited to respond to this reading by praying the ancient words of the Psalmist found in Psalm 32.

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.

Background to the First Reading

The key message of this reading is to follow what God asks of you. Abram is instructed by God to leave his home and his family to start a covenant with God. He shows his faith by immediately doing as he is asked, leaving all he has ever known and stepping out into the unknown. In return, it is promised that he and his family will be blessed.

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you

All the tribes of the earth



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Shall bless themselves by you.’

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: Our response today is to pray the ancient words of Psalm 32.
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: 1. 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 **(R)**

2. 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 **(R)**

3. 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 **(R)**

Time for silent prayer

Go Forth

Offering the Sign of Peace

When offering the Sign of Peace, participants might like to say the name of the person, looking at them with friendly eyes, speaking the words in a clear voice – ‘Peace be with you’ – while mindfully shaking their hand in a respectful manner. The words and action are like a prayer for others.

Leader: Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace.

(Time for Sign of Peace to be exchanged)



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Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: **Pray for us.**

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

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Ps 104:16-21. R. v.5; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

Today's Daily Prayer – World Day of Prayer

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle. Provide copies of the responses for all.

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 may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We now prepare our minds and bodies for prayer.

Let us be silent ... *(Pause)*

Let us be still ... *(Pause)*

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Today is the World Day of Prayer. Each year, a different country is chosen to write the prayers for this day - this year is Nigeria. The theme chosen is, "***I will give you rest: Come***" (Matthew 11:28-30). Let us take time to reflect on the Scripture reading that this theme comes from.

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: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

(Pause)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



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Reflect

Leader: A yoke is something that farmers use to join two animals together. It helps them share the weight of something heavy, also known as burdens. This reading contains an offer of hope to those who are suffering heavy burdens, which might be physical but they could also be emotional.

Who in your life helps lessen your burdens?

Who could you help today?

Respond

Leader: Come to Jesus, all who are weary.

All: **We Come.**

Leader: Come to Jesus, all you who are carrying heavy burdens; God will give you rest.

All: **God will give us rest.**

Leader: Take on the yoke that Jesus offers. It is easy. It is light.

All: **We receive this yoke.**

Leader: Learn from the one who is gentle and humble in heart.

All: **We are here to learn.**

Leader: You will find rest for your souls.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Go Forth

All: **Gracious God, you call us to follow you and be faithful disciples of Jesus. Give us the courage we need to live out your message through our words and actions.**

Help us to be examples of generosity, kindness and forgiveness, so that we may bring about your kingdom here on earth.

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love. Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.



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All: Pray for us.

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

Extinguish candle and pause.