

Daily Prayer

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A
The Year of Matthew
Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Acts 2: 14, 22–33; Psalm 15: 1–2, 5, 7–11; 1 Peter 1: 17–21; Luke 24: 13–35.

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.



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 Easter.

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – <i>White</i>	The two disciples meet with Jesus on the road to Emmaus.	Praying with the Gospel, Gospel Acclamation
Tuesday – <i>White</i>	Lord, you show us the path of life.	Praying with the First Reading, Praying with the Responsorial Psalm, Reflection in word and images, Echo Blessing
Wednesday – <i>White</i>	We are called to show the hospitality of God.	Praying with the Gospel Reflection in word
Thursday – <i>White</i>	Your hope and faith are set on God.	Praying with the Second Reading, Ancient Prayer: the Sarum Primer
Friday – <i>White</i>	We find Jesus in the celebration of the Eucharist.	Praying with the Gospel or ANZAC Day

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](#)

*To access Liturgy Help, please ensure you are logged into the CEVN website <https://cevn.cecv.catholic.edu.au/>



Daily Prayer

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A
The Year of Matthew
Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Acts 2: 14, 22–33; Psalm 15: 1–2, 5, 7–11; 1 Peter 1: 17–21; Luke 24: 13–35.

Today's Daily Prayer – The disciples on the road to Emmaus

The focus of today's prayer is the Gospel for the Third Sunday of Easter.

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

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our merciful and forgiving God.

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Open the ears of our hearts, O God, so that we may be constantly nourished by the words of holy Scripture.

All: Amen.

Listen

Background to the Sunday Gospel

This is the longest of the post-resurrection stories about Jesus and is taken from Luke's Gospel, even though most Gospels in the Easter season of Year A are taken from John's Gospel.

The two disciples, one of them named Cleopas and the other not named, have left Jerusalem and are on their way to Emmaus, about 11 kilometres away.

When Jesus appears and starts to talk to them they do not recognise him; they do not see him.

He begins to talk about Jewish Scripture, interpreting the death and resurrection of Jesus in the light of this. We can see the beginnings of the model for the Liturgy of the Word in this event.

Leader:

This week we focus on the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

They didn't expect to meet Jesus so they weren't really looking for him.

They listened to him as he interpreted Jewish Scripture about himself.



Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke. (Lk 24:13-35)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognising him.

And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?'

They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?'

He asked them, 'What things?'

They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us.

They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.'

Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?'

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the Scriptures.

(Pause for silence.)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader: Let us sit with this reading and reflect.

When the disciples listened to Jesus interpreting the Scripture, their hearts burned within them. Why?

What story in the Gospels burns within you?

What message does it have for you?

Time for silent reflection.

Go Forth

Leader: May God continue to lead us,

**All: As our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Extinguish candle and pause.



Daily Prayer

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A
The Year of Matthew
Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Acts 2: 14, 22–33; Psalm 15: 1–2, 5, 7–11; 1 Peter 1: 17–21; Luke 24: 13–35.

Today's Daily Prayer – Be with us, Lord.

Today's prayer focuses on the First Reading of the Third Sunday of Easter. Participants will need paper and pens, and art materials to respond to the psalm in words and pictures.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Tuesday

Gather

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our God.

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Creator God, be with us. We pray ...

All: Be with us.

Leader: Loving Jesus, be with us. We pray ...

All: Be with us.

Leader: Spirit of hope, be with us. We pray ...

All: Be with us.

Listen

Background to the Reading

The main purpose of the Acts of the Apostles is to tell of the lives of Jesus' followers in the early days of the Church. It is the story of the Christian movement among the Jewish people, which then gradually spreads out to other parts of the world. An important feature of Acts is the activity of the Holy Spirit, who empowers the disciples at Pentecost and continues to guide and strengthen the early Church.

Leader: Earlier in this chapter from Acts, the apostles are cowering in fear in a locked room, terrified that they might suffer the same fate as Jesus. Then the Holy Spirit comes upon them and they are transformed. Immediately after this event, known as Pentecost, the apostles are full of courage and passion and begin to preach openly to the people.



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 Acts of the Apostles.

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.

For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken.
therefore, my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.’

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: As we pray this Psalm, listen for a favourite word or phrase or image that touches your heart.

You will be invited to write or draw this at the conclusion of the psalm.

The response is: O Lord hear my prayer and let my cry come to you.

All: O Lord hear my prayer and let my cry come to you.

Reader: O Lord, listen to my prayer
And let my cry for help reach you.
Do not hide your face from me
In the day of my distress.
Turn your ear towards me
And answer me quickly when I call. (R.)

Reader: The nations shall fear the name of the Lord
And all the earth's kings your glory,
When the Lord shall build up Zion again
And appear in all his glory.
Then he will turn to the prayers of the helpless;
He will not despise their prayers. (R.)



Reader: Let this be written for ages to come
That a people yet unborn may praise the Lord;
For the Lord leaned down from his sanctuary on high.
He looked down from heaven to the earth
That he might hear the groans of the prisoners
And free those condemned to die. (R.)

Leader: Choose an image, word or phrase that you connected with while praying this psalm.
Write or draw this image, word or phrase and reflect on its meaning and relevance
for you in your everyday living.

Time for silent prayer

Go Forth

An Echo Blessing

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, give us faith.

All: **Come Holy Spirit, give us faith.**

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, give us courage.

All: **Come Holy Spirit, give us courage.**

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, give us hope.

All: **Come Holy Spirit, give us hope.**

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 the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Extinguish candle and pause.



Daily Prayer

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A
The Year of Matthew
Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Acts 2: 14, 22–33; Psalm 15: 1–2, 5, 7–11; 1 Peter 1: 17–21; Luke 24: 13–35.

Today's Daily Prayer – Welcoming Others

Today's prayer focuses on the Gospel of the Third Sunday of Easter.

Preparation: Each person will need a piece of paper and a pen/pencil.
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: 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: Jesus, we come with open hearts, ready to accept all.

All: Ready to accept all.

Leader: Jesus, we come with open minds, ready to include all.

All: Ready to include all.

Leader: Jesus, we come with open arms, ready to welcome all.

All: Ready to welcome all. Amen.

Listen

Background to the Sunday Gospel

In the Gospel story, the two disciples, after having walked several kilometres, are planning to stop and have something to eat. Jesus makes as if to go on but they are quite insistent that he stop with them.

They extend hospitality and welcome to someone who is a stranger.

This is a reminder of the directive in Scripture that says, 'I was hungry and thirsty and you gave me food and drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me' (Matthew 25: 35).

Luke's Gospel is full of stories of Jesus sharing a meal with others of all kinds of social standing, including accepting and welcoming all.



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 according to Luke.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them.

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Reflection Questions

Leader: Take a piece of paper and write down, one under the other, the letters of the word 'Hospitality'. For each letter, think of a word that you might associate with the message of hospitality in the Gospel. e.g. H – hello, O – open heart, S – sharing etc.

Place this page somewhere in your home, office, classroom so that you remember to extend the hospitality of God to others.

Time for silent prayer

Go Forth

Reader: May we remember to listen, to greet, to smile and to welcome others.
May we be gentle rest for the weary, healing balm for the broken hearted
and a loving presence for those who need us.

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 the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



Daily Prayer

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A
The Year of Matthew
Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Acts 2: 14, 22–33; Psalm 15: 1–2, 5, 7–11; 1 Peter 1: 17–21; Luke 24: 13–35.

Today's Daily Prayer – An Ancient Prayer: the Sarum Primer

Today's prayer focuses on the Gospel of the Third Sunday of Easter.

Preparation: Choose readers and a person to light the candle. Provide copies of the response for all.

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 begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our merciful and forgiving God.

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

Light candle and pause.

Listen

Background to the Second Reading

The First Letter from Peter was a letter of encouragement to the early Christians who were suffering persecution for their faith. The author of Peter reminds the listeners of the good news of Jesus Christ whose death and Resurrection gives them hope. He urges them to endure their suffering and encourages them to live as people who follow Christ.

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 First Letter of Peter.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile.

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

(Pause)



The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

An Ancient Prayer: the Sarum Primer

Leader: Let us respond to the Reading by saying together this ancient prayer from the Sarum Primer (1514).

All: May God be in my head, and in my understanding,

(Pause)

May God be in my eyes, and in my looking,

(Pause)

May God be in my mouth and in my speaking,

(Pause)

May God be in heart, and in my thinking,

(Pause)

May God be at my end and at my departing. Amen.

(Pause)

Sourced: The Lion Book of Famous Prayers compiled by Veronica Zundel, 1993.

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 the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



Daily Prayer

Third Sunday of Easter, Year A
The Year of Matthew
Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Acts 2: 14, 22–33; Psalm 15: 1–2, 5, 7–11; 1 Peter 1: 17–21; Luke 24: 13–35.

Today's Daily Prayer – Coming to know Jesus

Preparation: If possible, in the sacred space have a loaf of bread and a glass jug of wine displayed. 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 their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our merciful and forgiving God.

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Let us remember we are in the Easter season, and so we pray,
May our hearts and minds be lifted up to you, O God.

All: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Leader: And may our prayers rise up to you, O God.

All: **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Listen

Background to the Sunday Gospel

In the very act of breaking the bread the two disciples recognised Jesus.

And it is in the Eucharist that we recognise the presence of Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

But Jesus is also present in those who share the bread around the table of the Lord.

Jesus is found in the communion with all present.

The remembering of Jesus death and resurrection, and the sharing of the bread is what gives us strength to go forward and live the Gospel message.

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 according to Luke.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the Scriptures to us?'



That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader: Let us sit quietly and reflect on this reading.

How do you come to know Jesus?

Time for quiet reflection.

Go Forth

Blessing

Leader: As we go forth, let us seek the presence of Jesus in the breaking of the bread and in each other.

Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

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 the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



Today's Daily Prayer – ANZAC Day Reflection

Preparation: Choose readers and a person to light the candle.

You may like to add an Australian flag, photographs of soldiers (family members), and war medals to the prayer space.

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.

Reader:

Australians and New Zealanders remember and honour those who fought and died for freedom. We gather not to glorify war but to remember those who have served our country during times of crisis and to reflect upon their selfless sacrifice. Conscious that there are many men and women around the world still working for peace, we hold fast to the powerful hope that peace can exist today.

Let us begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 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.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 12: 23-24)

Jesus replied, "Now the hour has come for the Chosen One to be glorified.

The truth of the matter is, unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest."

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Reader:

Lord of Peace, we pray for the families of those who still grieve the loss of their sons and daughters; their brothers and sisters. May they find comfort as our nation joins with them in remembering. Lord, Hear Us.

All: Lord, hear our Prayer

Lord of Peace, we pray for the men and women who serve in Australia's armed forces today.



Please keep them safe; please help them to protect life; please give them the strength to fight ethically.
Lord, Hear Us

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Lord of Peace, we pray for the peace of the world.
We especially commend to your mercy the homeless and refugees.
We pray for the situation in the middle east.
Grant that the selfless leadership may prevail in these places, and wherever there is warfare.
Lord, Hear Us

All: Lord hear our prayer

Silent Reflection

Go Forth

Leader:

They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning
We will remember them.

Lest we forget.



All:

We will remember them.

Lest we Forget

Leader: God of Peace, we pray for all who show love and peace in our world.

May the message of Jesus' love spread throughout our earth.

We ask for the gift of peace in our hearts.

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

Extinguish candle and pause.

