

Daily Prayer

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A, *The Year of Matthew*
Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Deuteronomy 8: 2–3, 14–16; Psalm 147: 12–15, 19–20; 1 Corinthians 10: 16–17; John 6: 51–52.

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 [MackKa 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 of 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 Easter.

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.

The Season of Ordinary Time

This week we return to Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Calendar and so the colour for the priest's vestments and the altar cloths is changed from the white of Easter to the green of Ordinary Time.

Refugee Week 2026 "A Million Stories"

Refugee Week will be celebrated in Australia from Sunday, June 14 – Saturday, June 20, 2026

As part of celebrating the 40th Refugee Week, a celebration born in Australia and now observed around the world, let's keep sharing stories, challenging stereotypes, and building a more inclusive society. Let's build on this legacy.

Prayer for Refugee Week

Lord, no one is a stranger to you
and no one is ever far from your loving care.
In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers,
those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost,
and those who have been exiled from their homes.
Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,
and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Green	The kingdom of God is near; repent and believe the Good News!	Praying with the Gospel Imaginative Meditation
Tuesday – Green	Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!	Entrance Antiphon Praying with the First Reading Respond in Song
Wednesday – Green	The twelve are sent on a mission.	Praying with the Gospel Reflection
Thursday – Green	We are justified by the blood of Christ.	Praying with the Second Reading Lectio Divina
Friday – Green	We are his people, the sheep of his flock.	Praying with the Psalm Prayers of Intercession

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/>



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Readings: Exodus 19: 2–6; Psalm 99: 2–3.5; Romans 5: 6–11; Matthew 9: 36–10: 8.

Today's Daily Prayer – The kingdom of God is near.

In the Gospel reading for last Sunday Jesus sends out the twelve disciples. He is preparing them to carry out, in his name, the same ministry of healing and service that he began.

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: As we light this candle, we remember that as long as you are with us, Lord Jesus, we need never be afraid. May our prayer today alleviate all our fears.

All: **Amen.**

Listen

Background to the Gospel

In the Gospel from last Sunday, we read about how Jesus sent out his twelve disciples. The significance of the number twelve is the connection to the twelve tribes of Israel derived from Jacob's twelve sons. This link suggests that Jesus' action here is acting as a renewal of God's covenant with Israel and in some ways acts as a refounding of the People of God. Although, it is important to note that discussion in this area should not convey the idea that the Christian Church is a replacement of Israel. – (excerpt taken from Commentary by Brendan Byrne on Liturgy Help.)



Leader: Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture.

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 according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.' He summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: 'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

(Pause for silence)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Imaginative Meditation

Leader: Now we are going to begin imaginative meditation. Let's quieten our hearts and minds and imagine ourselves sitting in an open field listening to Jesus speak. Let's imagine the kind of day, the sun, the weather, the colours, the breeze.

Now let's listen to what Jesus says to us, imagining him looking at us and speaking our names and then saying,

'The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

(Pause)

Go Forth

Leader: May we go forth today celebrating that we have been sent forth by Christ.

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.

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

Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Exodus 19: 2–6; Psalm 99: 2–3.5; Romans 5: 6–11; Matthew 9: 36–10: 8.

Today's Daily Prayer – Do not abandon or forsake me, God my Saviour

Today's prayer focuses on the First Reading when Moses that takes us to the moment when God is about to forge a covenant with the people of Israel through the mediation of Moses. Preview the hymns beforehand to find the one that is most suitable for your community.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

To play the response in song, you will need access to AV.

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 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: Let us say listen to the Entrance Antiphon.
O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

Listen

Background to the First Reading

The First Reading and Gospel from last Sunday provide a sense of identity for the People of God. The First Reading takes us to the moment before God is about to forge a covenant with the people of Israel through Moses. Part of being the covenant people meant becoming a consecrated nation, a 'kingdom of priests.' Israelites are called to function as the order of priests' function, to offer worship to God on behalf of others and to act as mediators, a channel of communication of the riches of God.

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 listen attentively to the words of sacred Scripture.



Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp. Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

(Preview the hymns beforehand to find the one that is most suitable for your community.)

Leader: Let us respond by listening to this song about building God's Kingdom and the ways that God is always with us.

[Bring Forth the Kingdom](#) by Marty Haugen

[The Lord's My Shepherd](#) by Stuart Townend

[Building God's Kingdom](#) by John Burland

Go Forth

Leader: Loving God, may we always know that we are chosen by you.
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.

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

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Exodus 19: 2–6; Psalm 99: 2–3.5; Romans 5: 6–11; Matthew 9: 36–10: 8.

Today's Daily Prayer – The twelve are sent out.

Today's prayer focuses on the Gospel from last Sunday in which Jesus sends out the twelve disciples to continue his mission.

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 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: Lord Jesus, we are your people. Help us proclaim that your Kingdom is close at hand.

All: Amen.

Listen

Background to the Gospel

In this week's Gospel Jesus sends out the twelve disciples. The context in which Jesus takes this action is very significant. At the beginning we read that when he saw the crowd Jesus had compassion for them because they look burdened and helpless. Jesus is preparing a people who will carry out, in his name, the same ministry of healing and service to burdened humanity.

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 according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.' He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:



'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader: 'The true measure of building the kingdom of God is not in grandiose gestures, but in the everyday acts of love and compassion towards our fellow beings.' (Unknown)
What does this mean for you in your life?

Time for quiet reflection.

Go Forth

Leader: Let us go forth full of confidence, ready to be Christ in the world and sure in the knowledge that God will give us the strength we need.

All: Amen.

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.

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

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Exodus 19: 2–6; Psalm 99: 2–3.5; Romans 5: 6–11; Matthew 9: 36–10: 8.

Today's Daily Prayer – We are justified by the blood of Christ.

Today we focus on the Second Reading from Saint Paul's first letter to the Romans.

Preparation: Choose readers and a person to light 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 their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

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 remember that we are reconciled to God through the death of Jesus.

All: Amen

Listen

Background to the Second Reading

In this letter Paul is trying to communicate the great hope that lies in the midst of all the challenges of life. Paul explains that if God showed such great love and mercy for humanity by sending Jesus to suffer and die for us, then we can feel confident that God's love will certainly see us through to the end now that we have been justified.

Leader: Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture.

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 Saint Paul to the Romans.

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us



righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

(Pause)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Respond

Lectio Divina

Step 1 I will now read the passage out loud again. While reading note the word or phrase to which your attention is being drawn. If nothing stands out to you during this second reading, re-read it to yourself.

Step 2 Once you have identified a word or phrase that stands out to you meditate on it.
How is God speaking to you through this word or phrase?
Is there an invitation?
Is there a call?
Does a memory surface?
What image comes to mind?

Step 3 Take your time and allow God to speak to you.

Step 4 Respond to God in prayer.

Step 5 Be still and rest in the loving embrace of God.

(Pause)

Go Forth

Leader: Loving God, hold us close to you.

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.**

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

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Exodus 19: 2–6; Psalm 99: 2–3.5; Romans 5: 6–11; Matthew 9: 36–10: 8.

Today's Daily Prayer – We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Today we pray with the Responsorial Psalm.

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

Provide copies of the Responsorial Psalm and Prayers of Intercession for all to respond.

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: As we light this candle let us remember that Jesus is the light who dispels all darkness.

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.

Reader: The response to Psalm 99 is – We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

All: **We are his people: the sheep of his flock.**

Reader: Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. *(Response)*

All: **We are his people: the sheep of his flock.**

Reader: Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. *(Response)*

All: **We are his people: the sheep of his flock.**



Reader: Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. *(Response)*

All: **We are his people: the sheep of his flock.**

Respond

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Gracious God, with humble hearts we ask you to listen to the prayers we bring to you.

Reader: That we may shout the Gospel in our homes ... we pray:

All: **God, give us love.**

Leader: That we may shout the Gospel in our workplaces and classrooms ... we pray:

All: **God, give us faith.**

Leader: That we may shout the Gospel in the world ... we pray:

All: **God, give us courage.**

Leader: That we may be grateful for all the blessings we have received this term ... we pray:

All: **God, give us gratitude.**

Leader: That in the coming holidays, we may be renewed and refreshed ... we pray:

All: **God, give us peace.**

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.**

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

Extinguish candle and pause.

