

Daily Prayer

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B
The Year of Mark; Year of Prayer 2024



Readings: Acts 10: 25–26, 34–35, 44–48; Psalm 97: 1–4; 1 John 4: 7–10; John 15: 9–17.

Year of Prayer 2024

Pope Francis proposed that 2024 be marked as a year dedicated to prayer in preparation for the Jubilee 2025. The Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Daily Prayer resources will support both individual and community prayer in the Year of Prayer 2024. In addition, the Dicastery for Evangelization will publish a series of [prayer notebooks](#), with material taken from the many forms of prayer to be found in the rich Catholic tradition.

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 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.

The optional shorter prayer of the day is indicated by **green headings** on each day.

Overview of the Week

| Day and Liturgical Colour | Daily Prayer | Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Monday – <i>White</i> | <i>Peter visits the house of Cornelius and the power of the Spirit is revealed.</i> | Gather Praying with the First Reading Respond Prayers of the Faithful |
| Tuesday – <i>White</i> | <i>The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.</i> | Gather Listen Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Responding in Song Glory Be |
| Wednesday – <i>White</i> | <i>Let us love one another, because love is of God.</i> | Gather Praying with the Second Reading Lectio Divina |
| Thursday – <i>White</i> | <i>As the Father loves me, so I also love you; remain in my love.</i> | Gather Praying with the Gospel Respond Reflection Time Go Forth |



| Day and Liturgical Colour | Daily Prayer | Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Friday – <i>White</i> | <i>Love believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.</i> | Celebrating Mother's Day Respond Candle-lighting Ceremony Go Forth Mother's Day Blessing Sign of Peace |

Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary or NRSV.

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

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



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Today's Daily Prayer – Peter visits the Roman soldier Cornelius, and the Spirit is revealed

Today's prayer will focus on the First Reading. **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 want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

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

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

Leader: In this Easter season, let us continue to celebrate the essence of our faith – the resurrection of Jesus.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: As we light this candle ...

All: May your message, O God, burn in our hearts.

Leader: As we light this candle ...

All: May you give us words of wisdom.

Leader: As we light this candle ...

All: May the fire of the Spirit give us courage.

Background to the First Reading

This reading tells the story of Peter visiting the house of Cornelius, a Roman soldier. The Romans were occupying Palestine and were the enemies of the Jewish people. Their culture, strange beliefs and many gods highlighted the differences between them. In Jewish eyes, just to visit the house of a Roman gentile would be wrong and the visitor would be made unclean. Even though Cornelius was generous and benevolent to the local Jewish community, he was still Roman and not to be trusted. When Peter sees the faith of Cornelius and his desire to embrace the message of Christ, he sees the work of the Spirit, which was to include all and to accept all. Jews and gentiles alike were to be saved.

Listen

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

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
When Peter entered, Cornelius met him
and, falling at his feet, paid him homage.



Peter, however, raised him up, saying,
'Get up. I myself am also a human being.'
Then Peter proceeded to speak and said,
'In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him.'
While Peter was still speaking these things,
the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word.
The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter
were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit
should have been poured out on the Gentiles also,
for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God.
Then Peter responded,
'Can anyone withhold the water for baptising these people,
who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have?'
He ordered them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ.
(Pause)
The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Ever-present and loving God, we bring our prayers to you, knowing you are always there for us.

Reader: That we are enflamed with the spirit of peace and love, we pray ...

All: Spirit be with us.

Reader: That we are enflamed with the spirit of justice and compassion, we pray ...

All: Spirit be with us.

Reader: That we are enflamed with the spirit of mercy and forgiveness, we pray ...

All: Spirit be with us.

Reader: That we are enflamed with the spirit of generosity and kindness, we pray ...

All: Spirit be with us.

Leader: We offer our prayers to you, O God, praying that our hearts are aflame with love for you.

All: Amen.

Go Forth

Leader: Let us go forth from here praising God in all that we do and say.

All: Inspired to live faithfully in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

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



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Today's Daily Prayer – The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power

Today, we will pray with the Responsorial Psalm. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Tuesday

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 attend to this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

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

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: As we begin our prayer today, let us praise God in all things.
Let all things here on earth praise God.

All: May God's name be praised now and forever.

Leader: Let all things living in the sea praise God.

All: May God's name be praised now and forever.

Leader: Let all things of the sky and the heavens praise God.

All: May God's name be praised now and forever. Amen.

Background to the Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 97 is a hymn of praise, acknowledging God as the Lord of all. The psalmist sings praise of God and invites everyone else to join in. He recalls God's power and mighty deeds, his victories and his covenant with his people. Further into this psalm, he calls on nature to praise God: 'Roar, sea, and every creature in you; sing, earth, and all who live on you! Clap your hands, you rivers, you hills, sing together with joy before the Lord!' In his exultant praise of God, he exhorts all things to praise God.

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 pray together the Responsorial Psalm.

Reader: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

All: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.



Reader: Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm.

All: **The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

Reader: The Lord has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel.

All: **The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

Reader: All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise.

All: **The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

Respond

Leader: Let us respond to this psalm in song:
[‘Let us sing to the Lord’](#) by John Michael Talbot
[‘To the glory of God’](#) by Monica Brown (*Holy Ground*).

Go Forth

Leader: Let us pray together the Glory be.

All: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Leader: Let us go forth from here praising God in all that we do and say.

All: **Inspired to live faithfully in the light of Christ.**

Extinguish candle and pause.

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



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Today's Daily Prayer – Let us love one another, because love is of God

Today's prayer will focus on the Second Reading. **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 want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Leader: Let us pause and call to mind God's loving presence within us and among us.

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 love hopes all things, love endures all things, love never gives up. God is love.

All: Amen.

Background to the Second Reading

This reading is part of an epistle written by the same author as John's Gospel to a community that relied on it as its central guide. The audience was most likely gentile (non-Jewish), as it contains few Old Testament references and has no Jewish forms of expression. This was a relatively small church that often felt battered by the hostile world around it. The reading points out that we worship a God who is love and we belong to a love community. This is a community that is defined by its actions, the way it shows love and care to others, and the way that it acts with justice, compassion and mercy.

Listen

Lectio (reading, listening)

Leader: Let us still our bodies and sit comfortably so that we listen attentively. After the reading, I invite you to quietly re-read the text and allow the words to sink in.

Reader: Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

Silence for a while ...

Meditatio (meditating, reflecting)

Leader: Let us listen to this verse read slowly for the second time. As you listen, I invite you to remember a word or a short phrase that catches your attention, repeating it gently in your memory.



Reader: Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

Silence for a while ...

Leader: I now invite you to speak aloud the word or phrase of your meditation. This is like a re-reading of the Scripture, except only saying the words that you have been meditating on. As you speak this word or phrase, you give the words new life and each of us hears the words again in a new voice. After we have spoken our words, let us return to silent stillness, listening deeply.

Allow time for the participants to speak their word or phrase and then allow for silence. If there is no response, you may invite the participants to speak their word or phrase to the person next to them. Ensure that they only say their word or phrase and then return to silence.

Respond

Oratio (praying, responding)

Leader: I invite you now to share with the person next to you the words of your meditation. How might you live these words? What are your thoughts? What might God be saying?

Once we have finished sharing, we will return to silence and stillness.

Two to three minutes for sharing ...

Contemplatio (resting, contemplating)

Leader: Thank you for engaging in this sacred deep listening. Let us spend another few moments in contemplation, allowing these words, phrases, thoughts and feelings to sink deep into our hearts and minds, so that we move into our day deeply affected by God's Word.

A minute of silent prayer ...

Go Forth

Leader: May the love and joy that filled the hearts of the early Christian community also fill our hearts. May we go forth today showing that we belong to a loving community which values justice and compassion, and puts love into action by the way that we act towards others.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth from here praising God in all that we do and say.

All: Inspired to live faithfully in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

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



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Today's Daily Prayer – As the Father loves me, so I also love you; remain in my love

Today's prayer focuses on the Gospel. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone 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 want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

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

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: 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.

Background to the Gospel

In the time of Jesus, status and reputation were more important than what a person did, and what people said about you really mattered. Once again, Jesus turns common thinking upside down by saying that action, particularly regarding looking after others, is what is important. Jewish belief held that God loved the person who had wealth, good health and standing in the community. This immature spirituality was rejected by Jesus, who taught that all people, regardless of wealth or status, were equally important in the eyes of God. Agape love – love which reaches out to others and expects nothing in return – is more important than anything.

Listen

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

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘As the Father loves me, so I also love 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 joy may be in you
and your joy might be complete.
This is my commandment: love one another as I love 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 no longer call you slaves,
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.
I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.
It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.
This I command you: love one another.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader: The love that Jesus is referring to is called *agape* (ag-ah-pay) love. It means love which reaches out to others and expects nothing in return. This is the love that Jesus models for us and expects from us as Christians.

Let us take some time to reflect on what the words of the Gospel might mean for us.

'Love is not a feeling; love is an action.' What do these words mean for you?

How can you live out *agape* love in your life?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Leader: Love is patient and kind.

All: May I reach out with love.

Leader: Love is not jealous, or conceited or proud.

All: May I reach out with love.

Leader: Love never gives up, and its faith, hope and patience never fail.

All: May I reach out with love. Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth from here praising God in all that we do and say.

All: Inspired to live faithfully in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

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



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Readings: Acts 10: 25–26, 34–35, 44–48; Psalm 97: 1–4; 1 John 4: 7–10; John 15: 9–17.

Today's Daily Prayer – Love believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things

Today's prayer will focus on celebrating Mother's Day. **Preparation:** You will need six large candles for the 'Respond' section. Choose readers and someone to light the candles.

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 want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

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

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

Light candle and pause.

Leader: We gather today to celebrate Mother's Day. We celebrate our mothers and all who are like mothers to us. We remember our mothers present here, those who are not with us today, and those who have died and are with God. Through the love they show, the way they nurture and care for us, mothers help us to understand what God is like.

Listen

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

Reader: Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

(Pause)

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Leader: Let us remember our mothers and those who are like mothers to us.

We light a candle for joy. *(Light a candle)* May our mothers know much happiness.

We light a candle for peace. *(Light a candle)* May they have peace in their hearts.

We light a candle for life. *(Light a candle)* May they be filled with good health.

We light a candle for laughter. *(Light a candle)* May they laugh joyously and often.

We light a candle for strength. *(Light a candle)* May they be strong in heart and mind.

We light a candle for love. *(Light a candle)* May they love and be loved in return.

All: Amen.



Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Mother's Day Blessing

Leader: Gracious God,
We thank you for the love and care of our mothers
and those who are like mothers to us.
We place our mothers in your tender care
and ask you to give them strength when they are weary,
knowledge and understanding when they are unsure,
compassion and kindness when they are struggling,
and hearts full of love and joy.
We ask this prayer through Jesus, your Son.

All: Amen.

Sign of Peace

Leader: As we come to the end of another week, let us offer each other a sign of peace.
(Sign of peace)
Let us go forth from here praising God in all that we do and say.

All: Inspired to live faithfully in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

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

