During the period of suspension of public liturgies in response to the Coronavirus crisis, Catholics can take heart from one of the key decrees of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) on Christ’s presence in the liturgy:

“Christ is always present in his Church, especially in its liturgical celebrations. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of his minister, “the same now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross’ but especially under the Eucharistic elements. By his power he is present in the sacraments, so that when a man baptises it is really Christ himself who baptises. He is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church. He is present, lastly when the Church prays and sings, for he promised: ‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them’” (Mt 18:20).

[Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1963) art. 7]

If parishioners pray at home at the same time they would normally be together praying at Mass, there is a very real sense in which two or three are gathering in Christ’s name, in the unity of their prayer rather than of their physical person. Individual and family prayer based on the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours and other sources provides members of parishes and families with an opportunity to honour Christ’s presence in the domestic Church as those present pray to God in thanksgiving for gifts received, and for the needs of the Church and the world.
VARIOUS PRAYER RESOURCES

WEBSITES

- Liturgy Brisbane
- Liturgy Help (Creative Ministry Resources)
- Masses Online and Prayer Resources (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference)
- Pray.com.au (Jesuit Publications)
- Pray with the Pope
- Universalis

CREATING SPACE FOR PRAYER

1. Create a prayerful, welcoming space;
2. Include familiar liturgical symbols: water, cross, Bible, greenery/flowers and others as appropriate;
3. Light a candle and utilise music and singing;
4. Foster a reflective atmosphere of praise, thanks and intercession.

If you are able, donate to Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion today

SEASONAL HYMN

SIGN OF THE CROSS

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

R. Amen

V. With one heart and one mind let us bless the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

R. Blessed be God for ever.

CONFITEOR

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to hear God’s word.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

OR

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you call your people to turn away from sin: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

You teach us wisdom, and write your truth in our inmost heart: Christ, have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy.

You forgive sins through the ministry of reconciliation: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.
GLORY TO GOD
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of Good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer: you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

PRAYER
Let us pray,

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 4:8–11, 14–16 (JB)
That is the holy man of God, let him remain there
A reading from the second book of the Kings

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, ‘Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.’

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. ‘What can be done for her?’ he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, ‘Well, she has no son and her husband is old.’ Elisha said, ‘Call her.’ The servant called her and she stood at the door. ‘This time next year,’ Elisha said ‘you will hold a son in your arms.’

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
SECOND READING Romans 6:3–4, 8–11 (JB)

Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 88:2–3, 16–19 (JB)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. R.

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. R.

3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 1 Peter 2:9 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 10:37–42 (JB)

Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.’

‘Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

‘Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man’s reward.

‘If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
RECOGNISING GOD PRESENT

Our readings begin today with a story treasured in ancient Israel, of a famous holy man, the prophet Elisha and a woman who recognised that God spoke to the people through him. Through ordinary hospitality, this woman revered the presence of God in this holy man. In return, God’s generous love is shown to this childless woman, when the prophet promises her that within a year, she will have a baby son.

This story echoes in the Gospel, in Jesus’ promise that a person who receives a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. While this is good, it is even more important to receive Jesus because to receive him is to receive God who sent Jesus among us.

In the opening lines of this Gospel passage, Jesus makes the challenging claim that people must be ready to love him even more than they love their father or mother or child. And Jesus challenges his disciples even further – to take up an instrument of execution, to be prepared to die for his sake.

As disciples of Jesus today we are rarely called to pay such a price for our Christian faith. What the Gospel calls us to do is to know that in Jesus, God was present and continues to be present in our world. In a world which does not easily acknowledge God at all, it is Jesus’ disciples’ task to live generously and compassionately in the world, loving all of God’s creation. Then not only we, but others will have cause to sing the refrain of today’s Psalm, ‘For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.’

Michele Connolly RSJ

EXPERIENCING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Psalm 89(88) is a lament in which the people, broken and defeated in battle, bemoan their situation and ardently beg God to be faithful to them in their time of distress. In the first part of this psalm, from which the verses of today’s responsorial psalm are taken, this anguished mood is not apparent. Instead we find the people praising the goodness and love of God. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, they hold firm in their faith in God.

As I write this reflection, my thoughts turn to the thousands of people who even today are being driven out of their homes and villages simply because they are minorities, of a different race or religion to the majority. Could these people also, in the face of their experiences, still believe in the goodness of God?

The only way this could be possible is if they experience the love of God in the people who meet them as they are driven across borders and into exile. Hopefully they are welcomed with a cup of water, some food and a room in which to sleep. We can only pray that the people the refugees meet, and the international community, recognise that they are men, women and children of God and treat them accordingly.

Today, as in ancient times, it is principally through people, including us, that the grace of God is communicated to others. Jesus highlights this intimate connection between God and humanity when he says: ‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me’.

Michael Goonan SSP

St Pauls Publications and the authors have allowed the publication of this reflection to support the spiritual needs of Catholics unable to attend Mass at this time.
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Introduction
Dear friends, the command to take up our cross and follow the Lord can seem demanding, however, our baptism into Christ gives us the confidence to see the needs of this world and the Church as dependent upon God’s providence. Let us place our prayers before the Lord.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(All bow, up to the word “man”) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Amen
**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Intentions**

We pray for Pope Francis, and all clergy, religious and laity. That their words and actions will show that they are incorporated into a chosen race, a royal priesthood and a holy people inspired by the joy of the Gospel. We pray to the Lord.

*R. Lord hear our prayer*

We pray for all political and economic leaders. That they will be inspired to establish creative and lasting strategies to assist those affected by natural and biological disasters We pray to the Lord.

*R. Lord hear our prayer*

We pray for all communities of the world seeking to ease restrictions in relation to the COVID-19 virus, particularly those approaching holiday time. That they will always live responsibly, particularly towards those most at risk. We pray to the Lord.

*R. Lord hear our prayer*

We pray for all who have died recently, especially those who have died alone, the victims of the pandemic and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially N. _________________. That they will rest in Christ and rise in glory on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

*R. Lord hear our prayer*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*Let us join our prayers with the prayer Jesus gave us:*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

My Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

*St Alphonsus Liguori, alt. (1696-1787)*

**Conclusion**

*Leader: Let us pray.*

May this spiritual communion with your word fill us with life, O Lord, we pray, so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

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

*Let us go in peace.*

*Thanks be to God.*

**Concluding Seasonal Hymn or Song of Praise/Thanksgiving**
COMMON PSALM FOR ORDINARY TIME

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
   for you my soul is thirsting.
   My body pines for you
   like a dry, weary land without water.  R.

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
   to see your strength and your glory.
   For your love is better than life,
   my lips will speak your praise.  R.

3. So I will bless you all my life,
   in your name I will lift up my hands.
   My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
   my mouth shall praise you with joy.  R.

4. For you have been my help;
   in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
   My soul clings to you;
   your right hand holds me fast.  R.

BENEDICTUS (Morning)  Luke 1:68–79 (ICET tr.)

All make the sign of the cross.

1. Blessed be + the Lord, the God of Israel;
   he has come to his people and set them free.
   He has raised up for us a mighty saviour,
   born of the house of his servant David.

2. Through his holy prophets he promised of old
   that he would save us from our enemies, from the
   hands of all who hate us.
   He promised to show mercy to our fathers
   and to remember his holy covenant.

3. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
   to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
   free to worship him without fear,
   holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

4. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most
   High,
   for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
   to give his people knowledge of salvation
   by the forgiveness of their sins.

5. In the tender compassion of our God
   the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
   to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
   shadow of death,
   and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

6. Glory to the Father, and to the Son
   and to the Holy Spirit:
   as it was in the beginning, is now,
   and will be forever.  Amen.

MAGNIFICAT (Evening)  Luke 1:46–55 (ICET tr.)

All make the sign of the cross.

1. My soul + proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
   my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour
   for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2. From this day all generations will call me blessed:
   the Almighty has done great things for me,
   and holy is his name.

3. He has mercy on those who fear him
   in every generation.
   He has shown the strength of his arm,
   he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

4. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
   and has lifted up the lowly.
   He has filled the hungry with good things,
   and the rich he has sent away empty.

5. He has come to the help of his servant Israel
   for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
   the promise he made to our fathers,
   to Abraham and his children for ever.

6. Glory to the Father, and to the Son
   and to the Holy Spirit:
   as it was in the beginning, is now,
   and will be forever.  Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS (Night)  Lk 2:29–32; (ICEL tr.)

R. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake;
   watch over us as we sleep,
   that awake we may keep watch with Christ,
   and, asleep, rest in his peace.

1. Lord, + now you let your servant go in peace:
   your word has been fulfilled.  Ant.

2. My own eyes have seen the salvation
   which you have prepared in the sight of ev’ry people.  Ant.

3. A light to reveal you to the nations
   and the glory of your people Israel.  Ant.

4. Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
   as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  Amen.  Ant.
PRAYER RESOURCES

PRAYER FROM VOTIVE MASS FOR THE SICK
[Roman Missal (2010) p. 1378]

Collect
Let us pray:
O God, who willed that our infirmities be borne by your Only Begotten Son to show the value of human suffering, listen in kindness to our prayers for our brothers and sisters who are sick; grant that all who are oppressed by pain, distress or other afflictions may know that they are chosen among those proclaimed blessed and are united to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE
Almighty and all-merciful God, lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds, in whom there is no shadow of death, save us in this time of crisis; grant wisdom and courage to our leaders; watch over all medical people as they tend the sick and work for a cure; stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation; if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open. By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear, that hope may never die and the light of Easter, the triumph of life, may shine upon us and the whole world. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.
Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.
The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane

ECUMENICAL PRAYER FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The National Council of Churches, who have invited all of us to pray this prayer at 7pm each day:

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit’s discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

POPE FRANCIS’ PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Translation by Catholic News Service