

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 4th Sunday of Lent 2018

PRIEST

My dear friends, we should pray to God at all times, but in this season of Lent we try to deepen our life of prayer. Let us ask God to teach us how to pray as his sons and daughters.

PEOPLE

1. We pray for Pope Francis. That his staunch praising of mercy and compassion enables our church to heal those who have been abused, nourish those who are depleted and rebuild a church that is safe for all especially the children and the vulnerable.... **LORD HEAR US**

2 We pray for our little parish community. May we all look into our hearts and find ways of healing the hurts of the victims and survivors amongst us and cherish and keep safe the children and vulnerable in our homes and community **LORD HEAR US**

3 Lent is the yearly reminder of where a secure 'home' is - a time when we can return from our own exile. We pray that we can all use this time to come home to ourselves, to care for those who hurt and help heal those who are in deep pain..... **LORD HEAR US**

4 We pray particularly and fiercely for those who have suffered abuse at the hands of your ministers. We pray that together we can carry and lighten their pain as we ensure a new future safe from such violation within our church. And we pray that our commitment to redress will help their recovery.....**LORD HEAR US**

6 Let us bow our heads and pray for our own special intentions (Pause)
LORD HEAR US

7 We pray that all those victims weighed down with the violation of their bodies and spirits have their burdens lifted from them. And may all those who have not survived because they were not able to live with the suffering of their abuse, be embraced by your love..... **LORD HEAR US**

PRIEST

Lord god, you have called us to follow Christ and to share in his death and resurrection. Through our prayers set us free from the selfishness of sin and lead us to a new life in Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord

AMEN

A Prayer For Healing*

Gracious and loving Father,
Since your mercy has been revealed
in the tenderness of your Son Jesus Christ,
who said to his disciples:
"Let the little children come to me",
we pray that your Church may be a secure home
where all children and vulnerable adults
are brought closer to your Beloved Son.

May all those who have been abused
physically, emotionally and sexually by your ministers
be respected and accompanied
by tangible gestures of justice and reparation
so that they may feel healed with the balm of your compassion.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.



*Prepared by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Liturgical and Prayer Resources for Days of Fasting and Reparation 2018 following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse