

# CLUSTER PARISHES TOGETHER PRAYER & LITURGY RESOURCES



## **Prayer in the Cluster Parishes Process**

Archbishop Leo has asked that the process we are about to take part in is supported by constant prayer. In this booklet there are some suggestions about how you can do this in your parish.

The reflections contained in this booklet are connected with the Pastoral Letter '*We have found the Messiah*'. (Throughout this booklet this will be referred to as WHFTM.) There are also connections with the Jubilee Year of Mercy as we walk together on our journey of faith.

Pilgrimage is always an opportunity to take stock of our spiritual journey. There are suggestions for a Pilgrimage day, connecting with the saints of the Archdiocese who walk with us on our pilgrim way.

There are also suggestions for times of Eucharistic Adoration, as well as inserts to pray for each other at Sunday Mass in the Prayer of the Faithful.

Finally, another suggestion is to organise 24 hours of prayer called One Night One Day. This connects with Pope Francis invitation to pray during Lent with the whole Church before the Fourth Sunday of Lent on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Your deanery has a named Church for this.

## **PRAYER THEME ONE: Encountering Jesus Christ**

### **REFLECT:**

Archbishop Leo has reminded us that 'Christianity is primarily an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ. It is in this experience that we discover our greatest happiness, deepest peace and ultimate purpose in life.' WHFTM Page 3.

### **READ:**

John 1:35 – 39

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.

### **RECALL:**

1. Take time to consider what your relationship with Jesus is like today?
2. How did you get to know about Jesus?
3. Why is your relationship with Jesus so important to you?

### **RESPOND:**

1. As you reflect on the passage of scripture who have been the John the Baptist figures in your life?
2. How have you been a John the Baptist figure for others and introduced them to Jesus?

### **PRAY:**

- That the Holy Spirit will help each one of us to renew our relationship with Jesus
- That we will be like John the Baptist eager to introduce others to the Lord
- That we will open our hearts to know, embrace and love Christ our Lord.

## **PRAYER THEME TWO: The Mission of the Church**

### **REFLECT:**

Quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Archbishop Leo states 'The Church is the goal of all things.' CCC760. This means that 'the Church has a mission that comes from the very foundations of creation. That mission is to announce to men and women of all times and places that God the Father is inviting them to share in the eternal life of the Blessed Trinity – a life of ever greater holiness and joyful love – through his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit whom he sends into our hearts.' WHFTM Page 5.

### **READ:**

Philippians 2: 5 – 9

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

### **RECALL:**

1. Take time to consider what your baptism means to you?
2. How does your baptism give you a mission in the Church?

### **RESPOND:**

1. What does the phrase 'let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus' mean to you?
2. How does this challenge you and the way you live your life?
3. The Mission of the Church becomes a reality when people share the love of God with each other. How do you do this each day in your own life?

### **PRAY:**

- That each one of us will be renewed every day by God's love
- That we will share this love with others without fear
- That we will grow in our personal sense of mission with the Spirit's help

## **PRAYER THEME THREE: The Eucharist, the heart of our life**

### **REFLECT:**

Quoting *Lumen Gentium 11*, Archbishop Leo reminds once more that the 'Eucharist is the source and summit of the Church's life.' WHFTM Page 5

Everything we do and everything we are comes from this, where the whole of creation loved by God is presented to the Father through the death and resurrection of Christ. Further on Archbishop Leo states the three meanings of Church are inseparable: we are a Eucharistic assembly, we are a faith community, we are a global communion.

### **READ:**

Luke 22: 14 – 20

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

### **RECALL:**

1. Take time to consider what the celebration of the Eucharist means to you
2. Can you remember a celebration of Mass where you experienced Jesus as really present and alive?

### **RESPOND:**

1. Why do you think Jesus was so eager to share this moment with his disciples?
2. In light of the gift of Jesus to us, what is life giving for you about the celebration of Sunday Mass?

### **PRAY:**

- That we will all grow in our awareness of being the Body of Christ in the world
- That we will cherish the celebration of Eucharist as the highpoint of our lives
- That we will commit ourselves to gathering and be nourished by the Bread of life

## **PRAYER THEME FOUR: Bearing Witness**

### **REFLECT:**

When speaking about young people, Archbishop Leo states 'They are called to bear witness to the faith in an increasingly post-Christian culture and to make Christ known to a sceptical world.' WHFTM Page 9 This is true today for each one of us. We are all called to bear witness to Christ, in our families, with our friends and in our workplaces. Today more than ever we must be able to give account for the hope that is in us.

### **READ:**

1 Peter 3: 13 – 16

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

### **RECALL:**

1. Take time to remember an occasion when you were criticised or ridiculed for being Christian. How did that feel, and what did you say or do?
2. How do you help your friends and neighbours to know the Lord?

### **RESPOND:**

1. What do you think the phrase 'in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord' means?
2. How ready are you to speak up for Jesus and defend his values?
3. What would hinder you from doing this?

### **PRAY:**

- That we will grow in our confidence to speak about our love for Christ
- That we will encourage others to get to know Jesus
- That we will bear faithful witness to Jesus in all circumstances

## **PRAYER THEME FIVE: Vibrant Community**

### **REFLECT:**

Archbishop Leo states that in the context we find ourselves in 'we must set about rebuilding God's household with hope and with joy. We can use this time as an opportunity for spiritual renewal and refocusing our energies on a new evangelisation of our world.' WHFTM Page 8. It is from these renewed sources of grace and growth that we will be drawn into a vibrant community of spiritual, pastoral and evangelical life.

### **READ:**

Acts 2: 43 – 47

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### **RECALL:**

1. Take time to reflect on where you see signs of growth in your parish?
2. In what way are you part of that new life?

### **RESPOND:**

1. Paul describes the new life lived by the Christian community. Where do you see connections with this today?
2. What signs of vibrant life were there in the early Church?

### **PRAY:**

- That we will be open to new life in our parish communities and nurture new growth
- That we will have the courage to see where there is need for new life
- That we will be open and welcoming to newcomers and the new gifts they bring from service

## **PRAYER THEME SIX: Holy People, Saints Alive**

### **REFLECT:**

Archbishop Leo reminds us that the 'renewal of the Church in our Archdiocese will be based upon the inherited wisdom, joy and tenacity of all the saints who have gone before us.' WHFTM Page 11. The saints are those who have responded to the daring adventure of giving themselves wholly to Jesus Christ and following him wherever he calls to bring the Good News. Their adventure is our adventure. We are all called to be saints, called to make a difference.

### **READ:**

Ephesians 4:11-13

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

### **RECALL:**

1. Take time to remember the saints you have known among your own family and friends.
2. What was it that made them holy?

### **RESPOND:**

1. In the New Testament the living community were called the saints. What strikes you about the various ministries they took part in?
2. What gifts are needed now among the saints of God in the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh?

### **PRAY:**

- That we will cherish the holiness of family life and nurture each other's gifts
- That we will grow daily in holiness and attract others to follow Christ
- That we will build up the body of Christ by acts of generous service and sacrifice



## **PILGRIMAGE POINTS:**

Pilgrim Journeys bring together the travels of Scotland's Celtic Saints and Medieval traditions of pilgrimage with modern faith journeys. In our own Archdiocese we have some fantastic opportunities to walk with them.

During this year you could consider visiting some of the following sacred sites as well as the shrines dedicated for the Year of Mercy:

St Andrews Relics in St Mary's Cathedral

St Cuthbert's Way

St Margeret's Dunfermline

The St Andrews Way

Melrose Abbey

Jedburgh Abbey

St Patrick's Cowgate Edinburgh – Shrine of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair

You can visit this website: <http://www.scotlandspilgrimjourneys.com/>

## **PRAYERS for PILGRIMAGE**

God of our pilgrimage,  
you have given us a desire  
to take the questing way  
and set out on our journey.  
Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,  
that whatever we encounter as we travel,  
we may seek to glorify you by the way we live. Amen

*You call us, Lord,  
to leave familiar things and to leave our "comfort zone" to journey with your saints.  
May we open our eyes to new experiences,  
may we open our ears to hear you speaking to us  
and may we open our hearts to your love.  
Grant that this time spent on pilgrimage  
may help us to see ourselves as we really are  
and may we strive to become the people you would have us be. Amen*

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FORMATS:**

Parishes can arrange a specific time to pray for all who are taking part in this process during the year. It might be helpful to pray one week before the Cluster meetings. This could take place after a main Sunday Mass where there is a large gathering.

The format of this could connect with the themes and scripture suggestions already being used for prayer:

- Encountering Jesus Christ
- The Mission of the Church
- The Eucharist, the heart of our life
- Bearing Witness
- Vibrant Community
- Holy People, Saints Alive

## **RITE of EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION:**

The structure of the Rite is as follows:

### EXPOSITION

- Song
- Exposition

### ADORATION

- Readings, prayers and song
- Or Liturgy of the hours

### BENEDICTION

- Eucharistic song
- Prayer
- Blessing

### REPOSITION

- Reposition to the place of reservation
- Acclamation/Song

## **SUGGESTED PRAYER of the FAITHFUL**

(can be used in the Sunday before a Cluster meeting)

- That we will grow in our relationship with Jesus and encounter him afresh every day
- That we will share our love of God with others without fear and strive to live a life of ever greater holiness
- That the holy Eucharist will always be at the heart of our life and give us energy for serving the needs of the world
- That we will become more aware of our responsibility to bear faithful witness to Christ in our homes and workplaces
- That we will work hard together to build God's household and live a vibrant life of faith that attracts others
- That we will respond more fully to the call of Jesus to become saints
- That we will listen to each other with respect and reverence as we discern God's will for us together
- That we will be open to the new life that the insight of others brings
- That we will continue to care for the needy, those who are poor and the sick in our community with the love and generosity of Christ