

Prayers of Intercession
Remembering the Prison Community
Marking two years since the Holy Father's Year of Mercy 2016 Jubilee for Prisoners
Sunday 11 November 2018

Introduction:

As we call to mind the need for compassion and care for those in prison in Australia, we offer these prayers to our compassionate God.

Petitions

We pray for our Church leaders who in following Christ's example, may be compassionate, welcoming, and hospitable to prisoners, bringing them comfort and assurance.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for all our political leaders, especially those responsible for prisoners and detainees; in the light of restorative justice, may they come to an understanding of the educational, psychological and rehabilitation needs of all in their care, especially the youth.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray that in this Year of Youth, Christian young people may be a shining example to others that true joy, peace and success can be achieved without recourse to illicit drugs.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for all who are in prison or detention: that even though surrounded by bars and many restrictions, they receive your grace to know and understand true freedom of spirit.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for the families of prisoners: that they have the strength, patience and care to support their loved ones who are in prison, and that one day soon, to receive them back into their lives and their homes with love and forgiveness.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for those who work in the prison system, particularly chaplains and pastoral visitors. May they have the clarity of vision and purpose to always put the needs of prisoners first.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for those held in juvenile detention: May they experience guidance and loving correction through the care and support of those who are responsible for their well-being.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for ourselves that while always remembering the imprisoned, we remain aware of our own weakness and be thankful for the guidance and protection we have received.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for the victims of crime that through a spirit of forgiveness, they will find healing and comfort in their distress.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

Conclusion:

Father, your own Son was a prisoner even in his innocence. Grant these prayers through your divine mercy and compassion as we present them in faith to you in the power of the Spirit and the name of Jesus.

Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life – Australian Catholic Prisoners Pastoral Care Council, October 2018

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