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,

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. 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

Jeremiah 20:10–13 (JB)

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me, “‘Terror from every side!” Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, ‘Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!” But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
RESPONSIONAL PSALM  
Ps 68:8–10, 14, 17, 33–35 (JB)

R.  Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1.  It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother’s sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. 

R.

2.  This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. 

R.

3.  The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needs and does not spurn servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures.

R.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION  
John 15:26, 27 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL  
Matthew 10:26–33 (JB)

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

‘So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING  
Romans 5:12–15 (JB)

God’s gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of ‘law-breaking’, yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man’s fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE
SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

A CRY OF DISTRESS
The author of Psalm 69 (68) is in great distress. He is the object of vicious taunts and false accusations from members of his own family and clan. He has been ostracised from the community for speaking God’s word to them, a word they did not wish to hear. The personal catastrophe he is facing is the direct result of serving the Lord.

His plight is not unusual. The word of God is never welcomed by those who are bent on evil. As we see in today’s first reading, the prophet Jeremiah suffered a similar fate. In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples to expect the same treatment. Since then millions have suffered persecution for witnessing to Christ. Many continue to be persecuted today.

Convinced of the justice and great love of God for them, both the psalmist and the prophet Jeremiah cry out for justice. Lacking an understanding of an after-life, both demand that God take vengeance on their opponents. Jeremiah calls for his enemies to be disgraced. The psalmist is much more bloodthirsty. In verses considered too graphic and vengeful to be included in today’s liturgy (verses 23–29), he demands that God remove them from the face of the earth.

Our belief that those who kill the body cannot kill the soul has inspired many Christians to denounce injustice and pursue paths of non-violent resistance in the face of evil. Whether or not we see evildoers punished, we know that in the justice of God our efforts for right will ultimately produce the desired results.

Michele Connolly RSJ

WORTH MORE THAN HUNDREDS OF SPARROWS
In the journey of covenant love Christians must face the reality of evil in the world. Faith can show up evil and is at the same time the only way to triumph over it.

The tone today is set by our Psalm. This is a lament psalm, in which a person who is innocent before God complains vigorously about the evil they suffer for being faithful to God. At the same time the person speaking insists that God is faithful and to be praised. One third of the Bible’s Psalms, laments are great spiritual treasures because they enable the faithful person to be absolutely frank with God when evil oppresses them.

The prophecy from Jeremiah is an intensely personal lament about suffering for telling the truth as the prophet is called to do. As we hear Jeremiah’s struggle against injustice, we also must hear him praise the Lord who delivers the needy from evil.

In Romans, Paul uses the image of Adam, contrasting the first Adam of Genesis with the new Adam who is Jesus. Sin got its entry point to the world in the first Adam who disobeyed God’s command, with disastrous effects for human beings. However, Jesus, the new Adam, is the entry point for God’s saving grace to come into the world, to overthrow Sin and evil.

Finally, in the Gospel Jesus teaches us wisdom about evil. We should fear those whose effect is deep and lasting because it is spiritual. Yet Jesus lifts the mood with a little jest: listen for it!

Michael Goonan SSP
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Introduction

Dear friends, the Lord listens to those who pray, and always loves and cares for those in need. Let us gather our intentions and implore the Lord’s mercy.
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Intentions**

We pray for Pope Francis, and all clergy, religious and laity who minister the Gospel: That they will have the courage to proclaim and witness to the truth that comes from God’s word. We pray to the Lord.

*R. Lord hear our prayer*

We pray for all international, national and local leaders of government: that they will inspire confidence and trust in those they lead, particularly families and individuals affected by economic recession and lack of employment. We pray to the Lord.

*R. Lord hear our prayer*

We pray for all working to assist those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those in highly populated communities: that they will be properly equipped and effective in their vital care. We pray to the Lord.

*R. Lord hear our prayer*

We pray for all medical scientists seeking cures for diseases that afflict the human family, especially COVID-19. That their research will lead to accessible and lasting treatments. We pray to the Lord.

*R. Lord hear our prayer*

We pray for all who have died recently, especially those who have died through violence, the victims of the pandemic and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, esp. 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.

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**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)*

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**Conclusion**

*Leader:* Let us pray.

Renewed and nourished by the spiritual communion with your word and sacrament we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we commemorate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. 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 we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

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