

**From Psalm 33**      *The Lord is close to the broken hearted*

I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble will hear and  
be glad.                      *The Lord is close to the broken hearted*

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise His name.  
I sought the Lord and He answered me; from all my terrors He set  
me free.                      *The Lord is close to the broken hearted*

Look towards Him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.  
When the poor cry out the Lord hears them and rescues them from  
all their distress.              *The Lord is close to the broken hearted*

The Lord is close to the broken hearted; Those whose spirit is  
crushed He will save. *The Lord is close to the broken hearted*

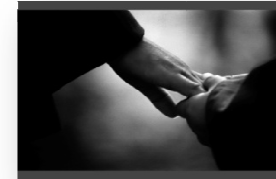
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Possible hymns and chants for prayer

- Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us
- Were you there when they crucified my  
Lord
- O Lord hear my prayer, when I call answer me
- Stay here and keep watch with me, watch and pray
- Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Keep watch, take heart.



*What now, what next?*



The following are some of the prayer resources we have used in the  
diocese as we reflect on the horror child abuse, its cover up and the impact  
of the revelations of the Ryan & Murphy reports (in 2010)

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*The Lord says: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall  
stand before me. I am with you to save you and free you*

You understand, O Lord; remember me and care for me.  
When your words came, I ate them;  
they were my joy and my heart's delight,  
for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.

Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable?  
Will you be to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails?

Therefore this is what the Lord says: "If you repent, I will restore  
you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless,  
words, you will be my spokesperson.                      *From Jeremiah 15*

Doubt can be corrosive.  
It can cast human beings down to the bottom of a well.  
But there is always a light still shining from above.  
The dark we experience is not the dead of night;  
it is not pitch-darkness.  
It does not inundate the whole of our being.  
The light of Christ still penetrates it.

*From the Taize community's daily prayer*

All look to you in hope, O God.  
And with generous hand, you satisfy every living creature.  
*From Psalm 145*

Risen Jesus, in your Gospel we discover such a clear hope.  
It sustains faith even in situations  
where there seems to be no way out.  
This hope reinvents the world.  
*From the Taize community's daily prayer*

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I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope,  
for hope would be hope for the wrong thing;  
Wait without love, for love would be love of the wrong thing;  
There is yet faith;  
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.  
Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought:  
So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.

*East Coker, TS Elliot*

Lord, we are so sorry for what we did to your children:  
We treated them so cruelly, especially in their hour of need.  
We have left them with a lifelong suffering.  
This was not your plan for them or us. Please help us to help them.  
Guide us, Lord, Amen.

*From Litmus, Dublin archdiocese*

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.  
For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

*From Matthew 11*

Jesus, our brother and friend,  
look with kindness and compassion on those who were abused.  
You see the lost child within still crying alone in the darkness  
where the hidden wounds of childhood still hurt, and make them  
afraid.  
When they feel abandoned, give them hope,  
when they feel ashamed, give them comfort,  
when they feel unloved, give them faith,  
when they feel betrayed, give them peace.  
In the power of your resurrection, may love triumph over fear,  
light shine in the darkness, and the long reign of terror be ended.  
Amen.

*by Tracy Hansen*

## A possible closing Liturgy

**Chant** Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart

**Ashes** United in sorrow, united in faith.  
Turn back to God and believe the Good News

**Litany of healing** (From Voice of the Faithful Healing Mass)  
What can we do? **We cry out to you, O God.**  
How can we heal? **We cry out to you, O God**  
Why did they suffer? **We cry out to you O God**  
How can they heal? **We cry out to you O God.**  
How could they deceive? **We cry out to you O God.**  
How shall we be one? **We cry out to you O God**  
"Then you shall call, and God will answer,  
you shall cry for help, and God will say, 'Here I am'.

**Litany** (From reflection by the Pathways program, Cork)  
You are God who hears the cry of the brokenhearted:  
Be, above all, with all survivors of abuse: those who were hurt,  
those who were not believed or were left without help.  
Comfort them, heal their pain, help them to find love to sustain  
them;  
Restore their lives in hope. *R/ Spirit of God, heal us.*

You are God of Justice:  
Come to our Church. Challenge us to stand with and for all who  
seek justice. Give us a heart for truth and for change. Let there be  
justice done in your name. *R/ Spirit of God, heal us.*

You are God of Compassion:

Draw near to all who have suffered shock and disappointment whose  
faith is shaken to its core through the scandal of the abuse of  
children. Let anger be the root of wisdom, and solidarity the  
beginning of healing. *R/ Spirit of God, heal us.*

You are God of Forgiveness:  
Give a spirit of repentance to all who have abused children. Rescue  
them from darkness and shame. and lead them to the light of truth  
and freedom. Open to them a new future in your love.  
*R/ Spirit of God, heal us.*

You are God of Righteousness:  
Forgive your Church the failures of the past. Grant to us gifts of  
prophecy, courage, determination and leadership. Teach us to be  
more truly your people. *R/ Spirit of God, heal us*

You are God of Freedom:  
We remember those who have been unjustly accused of abuse:  
restore them to their place in your Church, And those who feel  
unjustly blamed for poor decisions in the past : give them peace in  
your presence. *R/ Spirit of God, heal us.*

You are God of Hope.  
Bring from the hurt and pain of the present a new resolve to  
rediscover the Gospel of truth and justice. Give us a new courage, a  
new inclusiveness, and the seeds of a new future, where power is  
used only in service. Out of the brokenness of this time, show us  
how we can heal one another, and lead us to unity in your Spirit.  
*R/ Spirit of God, heal us.*

## **Time of open prayer**

**Taize chant:** O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.

When I call, answer me. ... Come and listen to me.

### **Scripture**

*From 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Corinthians. 1 Cor 12:12, 14, 21, 26-27-27*

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>14</sup> The body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

### **Reflection**

Take down your lantern from its niche and go out.  
You may not dwell in firelight certainties  
Secure from drifting fog of doubt and fear.  
You may not build yourself confining wall and say:  
'Thus far, and thus, and thus far shall I walk,  
And these things shall I do and nothing more.'  
Go out!  
For need calls loudly in the winding lanes  
And you must seek Christ there.  
Your pilgrim hear shall urge you one pace beyond  
And love shall be your lantern flame.

*Where am I being called out into now?  
Where is my parish being called?*

### **Hymn:** Christ be our light (B. Farrell)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

*Christ be our light ...*

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

*Christ be our light ...*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

*Christ be our light ...*

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.