

Let us pray



Consider this then

*... If we are too busy to pray together
... are we too busy?*

*Be still.
Listen*

*This is a holy time, a holy place,
For God is present.
And where God is, is holy*

Each of the following prayer sessions can be adapted, changed or developed according to your groups needs. Please consider them a resource and a support for you to draw on, not a task to be completed.

They all have the following in common:

- (1) A centrepiece which consists of a large candle, a coloured cloth, and some seasonal items.
- (2) A chant from the Taize ^(c) community. These can be sung or listened to from a CD
See www.taize.fr/en_rubrique12.html for details of the prayer and song of Taize. Also at www.taize.fr/en_article681.html you will find an audio recording of each piece – so it can be learnt without reading music!
- (3) Scripture, which forms the centre of all our prayer.
- (4) A very simple and open reflection based on the scripture we have listened to.
- (5) A closing prayer that can be said together

Feel free to photocopy these materials once you include all references to authors. (Taize, Joyce Rupp etc).

October

Centre piece:

Orange or brown cloth, autumn leaves across it, large candle at centre. Images of parishioners & parish liturgies/activities laid around this at an angle so they can be easily seen.

Music / Set tone:

Background soft music or chant “Ubi Caritas” (Taizé)

Ubi caritas Deus ibi est

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Ubi caritas Deus ibi est'. It features a treble and bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a tempo marking of quarter note = 58. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

J Where there is char-i-ty, self-less love, Where there is char-i-ty, God— is tru-ly there. / Ten, kur gai-les-tis ir mei-lè, ten, kur gai-les-tis, Die-vasten y-ra. /
いつくしみあ-いの あるところか-みとみに

Music: J. Gelineau
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Scripture – 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, 11-13, 27

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all people. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ... The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Read this scripture aloud. Allow a moment of silence (or soft music) to absorb reading. Re-read it aloud. After a few minutes move slowly into the reflection allowing spaces for silence between each question and each comment.

Reflection

Who are the people who make up the worshipping community of this parish?
What gifts does each person bring? – what talents? What wisdom? What abilities?
What needs has God placed in our care?

Read aloud: “Today it seems that many people find it difficult to hear the voice of God who calls them. They do not hear it in the life and liturgy of the parish or in ‘the institutional church’. This is not something we should simply look at with helpless regret. It is a call to mission. As Pope John Paul put it in Knock, each new generation “is like a new continent to be won for Christ”, and the Church “must constantly seek for new ways that will enable her to understand more profoundly and carry out with renewed vigour the mission received from her Founder”.

(United in Hope, Lenten Pastoral 2009, +Donal Murray)

Invite all to say aloud their prayers for this parish, its people and its liturgies. – Lord hear us.

Closing Prayer:

Open our eyes Lord to see those you have placed in this community with us,
Open our hearts to welcome the gifts and needs they bring to our prayer,
Open our lives Lord that we might let your plan become a reality in our lives. Amen

November

Centre piece: dark blue or black cloth. Large centre candle. Several lit small lights dotted around the cloth. Several more unlit dotted round outer edge (at least one per person).
Matches or taper to hand for during the prayer.

Music / Set tone:

Background soft music or chant “Stay with me” (Taizé)

Bleibet hier

Bleibet hier und wa- chet mit mir. Wa- chet und be- tet, wa- chet und be- tet.

♪ **Stay with me**, re- main here with me, watch— and pray— watch— and pray— /
Per- ma- ne- ce- jun- to- de- Mm, O- ra_ e vi- gi- a, o- ra_ e vi- gi- a. / **Ve- la- ré con- ti- go**
Se- ñor, mien- tras yo vi- va, mien- tras yo vi- va. / **Vir- rassz még** és i- mád- kozz még!
Jé- zus- sal éb- ren, vir- rassz az éj- ben. / **Zo- stañ tu**, i ze mna się módl, ra- zem
czu- waj- my, ra- zem czu- waj- my. / **Bo- di tu**, in čuj zdaj z_ me- noj. Čuj zdaj in mo- li, čuj
zdaj in mo- li. / **Zú- stañ- te** a bdě- te se mnou. Bdě- te a pros- te, bdě- te a pros- te. /
Li- ki- te kar- tu su ma- nim, nuo- lat bu- de- kit ir karš- tai mels- kit. / **O- stani tu** i u- za me
bdij, mo- li i bdij, — mo- li i bdij. — / **Ri- ni ktu** e pri- sni me nu lu- tu- ni e pri- sni lu- tu- ni e
pri- sni. / **Будь- те** здесь о- ставь- тесь со Мной, бди- те, мо- ли- тесь, бди- те, мо- ли- тесь.
/ **За- ли- шись** й зі мною мо- лись Пиль- нуй мо- ли- ся Пиль- нуй мо- ли- ся. /
Kaa ha- pa ra- mo- ja na- mi ke- sha na sa- li ke- sha na sa- li.

Musio: J. Berthier
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Scripture: 1 John 3:1-3 (NIV translation)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is

Read this scripture aloud. Allow a moment of silence (or soft music) to absorb reading. Re-read it aloud. After a few minutes, move slowly into the reflection, allowing spaces for silence between each question and each comment.

Reflection: Walking with the saints

“Who has walked this road before us, who walks now by our sides,
Who could know the pilgrims footsteps: one who has thus lived and died.
We who travel, do now journey, with all those who’ve gone before
In the hope of coming home then, to our Fathers welcoming shores”

A different group member might read each of the following and light a candle.

- We think on those of our family who have died & gone before us.
We light a candle in their honour.
- We think of all who have served the faith community in this parish and area. We thank God for them as we light a candle in their name.
- We think of the saints of this area – Senan, Nesson, Ita, and others who have inspired us
This candle represents the light of faith that they have passed on to us.

Allow a time of open prayer for those we remember in November.

Prayer

Lord, give us the courage and faith to follow our saints on this pilgrim journey and the bravery we need when we cross the boundary and join them on the way home. Amen.

December

Centre piece: white cloth draped over uneven surface to create hills and valleys. Large centre candle.
Sand pooled in low points to create contrast and sense of desert.

Music / Set tone:

Background soft music or chant "Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life" (Taizé)

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Ten-go sed de ti, oh fuen-te del a-mor. Ten-go sed de ti: tu, a-mor es li-ber-tad. / **Jo tinc set de tu**, tinc set del teu a-mor. Jo tinc set de tu, oh font de li-ber-tat. / **Prijs de Heer** mijn ziel, en prijs zijn heil'-ge naam. Prijs de Heer mijn ziel, die mij het le-ven geeft. / **Ben-diz o Se-nhor**, lou-va-o seu San-to no-me. Ben-diz o Se-nhor, que a-vi-da nos con-duz. / **Zo-tin beko**, o shpirt, dhe e mrin e tij të shenjt'. Zo-tin beko, o shpirt, prej vdekjes sjell shpëtim. / **Kii-da Is-san-dat** ja ū-tis-ta, mu hing, Kii-da Is-san-dat, ta el-tu ju-hib mind. / **Wiel-bić Pa-na chęć**, ra-dosną śpie-wać pieśń. Wiel-bić Pa-na chęć, On źród-łem ży-cia jest. / **Bla-go-slov-ljen Bog**, i pre-sve-to mu i-me. Bla-go-slov-ljen Bog, on ži-vot da-nu-je. / **Kun-gam pa-tei-cos** sirds Vi-gā prie-ku rod. Kun-gam pa-tei-cos par vi-su, ko Mīš dod. / **Daj nam mir, Go-spod**, raz-sve-ti nam sr-će. Daj nam mir, Go-spod, raz-ja-sni svoj o-braz. / **Slo-vink vies-pa-tij**, i šven-tā var-dā Jo. Ma-no sie-tai Jis gy-vy-bę am-žiams duos. / **Cân-tă su-Ńe-te** pe Dom-nul tău cel Sfânt. Că-n-tă su-Ńe-te, El via-tă dă-nu-te. / **Гос-по-ду хва-ла и по-мни Е-го**. Гос-по-ду хва-ла, Он в жи-вие ме-ня ве-дет. / **Гос-по-ду хва-ла** сьят-ге Йо-го і-м'я Гос-по-ду хва-ла Вік дже-ре-ло жг-тя.

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Scripture: Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar... the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.'

Read this scripture aloud. Allow a moment of silence (or soft music) to absorb reading. Re-read it aloud. After a few minutes move slowly into the reflection allowing spaces for silence.

Reflection: 'Homecoming' by Joyce Rupp. From 'May I have this dance'. Ave Maria Press 1992.

Something in me is stirring; I think its the part of me
that waits in lonely exile and yearns for a homeland
its the hidden part of me that wanders aimlessly
stumbling in the dark, waiting to be found
O God of exiles and strangers, find the homeless part of me;
Guide me toward yourself, for you are my promised land.
Take the stranger inside of me and find familiar soil for it
Keep me mindful of the Emmanuel, whose sojourn brought a glimpse of home.

- In what part of my life do I feel lost or in need of Gods love?
- In what relationships or decisions have lost my way and found myself on crooked paths, unable to find my way home?
- This Advent – what am I waiting for? How am I preparing to receive Gods love?

Closing Prayer: God of the homeless, lost and powerless
In this Advent season, may we come to know our need of you more and more
And may we open our eyes to see your path,
Our ears to hear your voice, and, our hearts to accept your love
– the pure love of a child, the deep love of our Saviour. Amen

January

Centre piece: yellow cloth. Large centre candle. Bowl of water with small (filled) water jug beside it.
Fresh flowers (at least one per person) - preferably in a vase of water to keep them from wilting!

Music / Set tone:

Background soft music or chant "In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful" (Taizé)

J = es

El Senyor

El Se - nyor és la me - va for - ça, el Se - nyor el meu...
In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -
cant. Ell m'ha es - tat la sal - va - ci - ó. En ell con -
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
fi - o i no tinc por, en ell con - fi - o i no tinc por. El Se -
voi - ces, the Lord is near, lit up your voi - ces, the Lord is near. In the

Mei-ne Hoff-nung und mei-ne Freu-de mei-ne Stär-ke, mein Licht, Chri-stus, mei-ne Zu-ver-sicht, auf dich ver-trau' ich und fürcht' mich nicht. / *In the Lord* I'll be ever thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-fraid. Lift up your voi-ces, the Lord is near. / *O ma joie* et mon es-pé-ran-ce, le Sei-gneur est mon chant. C'est de lui que vient le par-don. En lui j'es-pè-re, je ne crains rien. / *Il Si-gnor* è la mi-a for-za e lo spe-ro in lui. *Il Si-gnor* è il Sal-va-tor. In lui con-fi-do, non ho ti-mor. / *O Se-nhor* é a mi-nha for-ça, so Se-nhor o meu canto. E le-é nos-so sal-va-dor. Ne-le_eu con-fi-o e na-da temo. / *Zo-ti është e gjithë for-ça i-me*, ndaj dhe un te Ëi shpre-soj. Sep-se Zo-ti është shpë-tim-tar Un i be-soj e-dhe nuk kam frik'. / *Pan jest mo-ça* swo-je-go lu-du. Pies-nia mo-ja jest Pan. Mo-ja tar-cza i mo-ja moc. On jest mým Bo-giem, nie jes-tem sam. W Ni-m mo-ja si-ła, nie jes-tem sam. / *Kaž-dý den* Pán mi sí-lu dá-vá, pís-ní mou je můj Pán. On se stal mým spa-se-ním, když krá-čím s ním, ne-mu-sím se bát. / *Mo-ja mó-drost'* a mo-ja ná-dej, mo-ja pie-seň je Pán. On je Boh a Spa-si-tel-náš, tak sa ne-boj-te, Je-zis je tu, ne-boj-te sa, veď náš Pán je tu. / *Je-zus é-le-tem*, s-róm bé-kém, já-zu stár-sam, órö-möm. Ben-ned bí-zom, te vagy az Ur, már ninc-s mit fél-nem, mert ben-nem élsz. / *Jer Go-spo-din* je mo-ja sna-ga, mo-ja pje-sma, moj mir. On je Bog i Spa-si-telj, u njeg' se u-zdam, ne bojim se. / *Тодь-ко в Гос-по-де мо-я ра-до-сть, тодь-ко в Гос-по-де мир, тодь-ко в Бо-ге мы сна-гды. Он радост с на-ми, Он смирот нас. / Ть-ки в Гос-по-ди мо-я радость, Ть-ки в Гос-по-ди мир, Ть-ки в Бо-ге сна-га мо-я, Вик по-руч е на-ми, Вик чу-е нас Вик по-руч е на-ми, Вик чу-е нас.*

Music: J. Berthier
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Scripture: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ...When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Read this scripture aloud. Allow a moment of silence (or soft music) to absorb reading. Re-read it aloud. After a few minutes move slowly into the reflection allowing spaces for silence.

Reflection:

We give thanks this evening for all you have given us O Lord

- We give you thanks and we praise you for making us who we are, O Creator
- We give you thanks, and we praise you, for your great love for us O Saviour
- We give thanks for those people you have placed in our lives, O Sustainer

Help us to believe that you love us Lord and are well proud of us, your children.

Help us to hear the words of Baptism in our hearts – the Christian community welcomes you with great joy and in Christ's name we claim you for Him.

As a sign of Gods gracious love – each person is handed a flower, with the words,

'(Mary/John), In Christ's name, we welcome you, your gifts and your needs, with great joy'

Closing Prayer: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

February

Centre piece: green cloth, Large candle, pile of small stones, pile of torn bread

Music / Set tone:

Background soft music or chant "Nothing can trouble" (Taizé)

Nada te turbe

The image shows a musical score for the piece 'Nada te turbe'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, with a tempo marking of quarter note = 72. The lyrics are: 'Na-da te tur-be na-da te_es-pan-te; quien a Dios tie - ne na-da le fal-ta.' The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef, with the lyrics: 'Na-da te tur - be, na-da te_es-pan-te: só - lo Dios ba - sta.'

♪ **No-thing can trou-ble**, no-thing can fright-en those who seek God shall ne-ver go want-ing. God a-lone fills us. / **Frykt ik-ke me-re**, vær ei be-kym-ret. Vend deg til Je-sus, se, Her-ren le-ver! Frykt ik-ke me-re, vær ei be-kym-ret. Gud er full av nå-de! / **Nul-la ti tur-bi**, né ti spa-ven-ti: Di-o ti a-ma, nien-te ti man-ca. Nul-la ti tur-bi, né ti spa-ven-ti: so-lo Dio ba-sta. / **Ne féj, ne ag-gódj**, ne síj ne bán-kódj: ha ti-éd ís-ten, ti-éd m ár min-den. Ne féj, ne ag-gódj, ne síj ne bán-kódj: e-lég Ó né-ked. / **Juž się nie le-kaj**, po-rzuć zm ar-twie-nia. Bo-gu za-u-faj, nic ci nie gro-zi. Juz się nie le-kaj, po-rzuć zm ar-twie-nia. Bóg mi-toś-daj jest. / **Nič te ne mo-ti**, nič ne vzne-mir-ja, če mu za-u-paš, nič ti ne manj-ka. Nič te ne mo-ti, nič ne vzne-mir-ja, saj do-volj je Bog. / **Za-što taj ne-mir**, za-što tje-sko-ba? Bog je pored te-be, vje-ruj u mi-lost. Vje-ruj u lju-bav u skrs-log Kri-sta, za nje-ga ži-vi! / 두려워 말리 걱질을 말리 주님 계시니 아쉬움 없네 두려워 말리 걱질을 말리 주님 안에서 / 不再有憂慮，不再有害怕；有主就滿足。 / **Bul ra-gal da-ra**, bul xa-laat da-ra, Boo am-ee Yál-la, riak-ku-foo da-ra, Bul ra-gal da-ra, bul xa-laat da-ra, Yál-la rekk doy-na!

Music: J. Berthier
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Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷So if you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Read this scripture aloud. Allow a moment of silence (or soft music) to absorb reading.

Reflection: *Allow some moments of silence, inviting people to reflect on what has been troubling tempting or frightening them. Repeat the Taizé chant (or read it aloud several times)*

'Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten, those who seek God will never go wanting. Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten, God alone fills us'

Explain that we will pray for one another this evening. Invite each person to place their hand on the shoulder/arm of the person to their right, and to pray silently that Gods grace will conquer any fear, trouble or temptation in their lives. Invite them then, again in silence, to give praise and thanks to God for this person.

Closing Prayer: Into your hands Lord, we place our lives

Into your love Lord, we place our fears, temptations and worries

When we feel alone and powerless, remind us Lord of your love.

Carry us, send your angels to protect us, show us your presence,

So we need never feel deserted, even when we are tempted to.

Amen.

March

Centre piece: red cloth. Large candle at centre. Placed on a wooden board: a loaf of bread torn in two and a bunch of red grapes.

Music / Set tone:

Background soft music or chant "Eat this bread" (Taize)

♩ = 80 **Eat this bread**

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and ne-ver be
(or) Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not
hun - gry. Eat - this bread, drink - this cup,
hun - ger. Je - sus Christ, Ri - sen Lord,
trust in him and you will not thirst.
those who trust in you will not thirst.

Music: J. Berthier
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Scripture: 1 Corinthinans 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Read this scripture aloud. Allow a moment of silence (or soft music) to absorb reading.

Reflection: *From a homily by St Augustine (approx 400 AD), for newly baptised Christians. This will need to be read & re-read slowly for the group – a copy might be helpful for all to take home.*

... If you wish to understand the body of Christ, listen to what the apostle says to the believers,
'You are the body of Christ and his members.'

If, therefore, you are the body of Christ and his members, it is your own mystery that has been placed on the table of the Lord. It is your own mystery that you receive.

To this which you are, you respond 'Amen' and in responding, you accept it.

What you hear is 'the Body of Christ' and to this you respond 'Amen'.

So, be a member of Christ's body, that your Amen may be true.

... Be what you see and accept what you are

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, open our hearts and minds to accept the grace we are offered in Eucharist. Help us to recognise one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, united around the table of the Lord. Bless us as we place our trust in you. Amen

April

Centre piece: white cloth, Large central candle, symbols of the sacraments: bread, wine, water, oil etc.

Music / Set tone:

Background soft music or chant "Sing praise all you peoples" (Taize)

Laudate omnes gentes

♩ = es

Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -
da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -

♪ Sing prai-ses, all you peo-ples, sing prai-ses to the Lord. / Sjung lov-sång, alla län-der, och pri-sa Her-rens namn! / Can-tai to-dos os po-vos, lou-vai nos-so Se-nhor. / A-la-be to-do el mun-do, a-la-be al Se-nhor. A-la-be to-do el mun-do, a-la-be a nues-tro Dios. / Gie-do-kiit vi-sos tau-tos, gie-do-kiit Vieš-pa-čiu. / Сла-ві-те, всі на-ро-ди Сла-ві-те Гос-по-да. / すべてのひとよ主をたたえよ / Si-fu-ni wa-tu wo-te si-fu-ni Mwen-ye-zi.

(Louez le Seigneur, tous les peuples. / Lodate il Signore tutte le genti. / Chwalcie Pana, wszystkie narody. / Прославляйте все народы Господа. Ps 117)

Music: J. Berthier
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Scripture: John 21: 15-17

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." "Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?". He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

Read this scripture aloud. Allow a moment of silence (or soft music) to absorb reading. Re-read it aloud. After a few minutes move slowly into the reflection allowing spaces for silence between each question and each comment.

Reflection:

In the Mass we do more than remember with faith the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday; we are in real contact with those events, which are continuing to unfold in human history until Jesus comes again to bring us to himself (Jn 14:3).

... It follows that an essential key to our faithful following of Christ and our faithful passing on of his Good News is that our celebration of the Eucharist should really touch us deep in our hearts and should affect every aspect of our lives ...

An essential step in our efforts to carry out the Church's mission and to plan for the future must therefore be to 'rekindle our Eucharistic amazement' so that we can draw the strength we need from the mystery and direct our efforts towards it.

Bishop Donal Murray, Rekindling the Amazement.

Invite all to consider how Eucharist has been a blessing in their lives. After a moment of silence, invite everyone to offer this sentence as a prayer, 'Eucharist is ...' (e.g. community, sacred, etc)

Prayer

Father, may we celebrate the Eucharist with reverence and love, for when we proclaim the death of the Lord you continue the work of his redemption, who is Lord for ever and ever. (Prayer over the Gifts, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time).

May

Centre piece: white cloth, large central candle, red cloth wrapped around the candle.

Music / Set tone:

Background soft music or chant "Come Holy Spirit" (Taizé)



Music: J. Berthier
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Scripture: Acts 1: 1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Read this scripture aloud. Allow a moment of silence (or soft music) to absorb reading. Re-read it aloud. After a few minutes move slowly into the reflection allowing spaces for silence between each question and each comment.

Reflection:

Breathe on us God
Let the violence of your Spirit sweep among us and make us discontent.
Fill our churches with the overwhelming sound of your rushing wind -- your 'ruah'.
Prepare us for the coming of your Spirit
Let us listen with anticipation the teachings of Jesus the Christ:
Make our hearts and minds be ready to receive
The blessing of the Holy Spirit,
Prepare us to be filled with the strength of her presence

Breathe on us God
Prepare us for the perfecting of your Church.
Set up on fire for your Word.
Perfect us with a burning desire to do your will.
Let us speak to each person in this world in language they will understand.
Fill us with all truth, in all truth with all peace.
Where your church is corrupt, purify it; Where it is in error, direct it;
Where your church does not promote your kingdom, reform it.
Where it is right, strengthen it; Where it is in want, provide for it; Where it is divided, unite it;
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Amen.

From <http://reverendmommy.blogspot.com/2006/05/prayer-for-pentecost.html>

Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.
O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.