

PRAYER RESOURCES



ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's Renewal Committee

PRAYER IN TIME OF RENEWAL

Leader: Almighty God and Father, we the people of the Archdiocese of St. John's prayerfully look to the future. During this time of renewal, we implore the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us the gifts of wisdom, hope and courage to renew and embrace the promise of new life that is being offered to us.

All: May we exercise the virtue of prudence by opening our hearts and minds to be good stewards of the legacy of faith inherited from those who built the Church in Newfoundland.

Leader: May we exercise the virtue of justice by opening our hearts and minds to assure that the voices of persons from all generations, all vocations and all areas of the diocese are welcomed and respected;

All: May we exercise the virtue of fortitude by opening our hearts and minds to understand and acknowledge the spiritual and practical realities of our day and prepare for the days to come.

Leader: May we exercise the virtue of temperance by opening our hearts and minds to accept the changes in diocesan, parish and personal life that the Holy Spirit, through this planning process, is guiding us to make.

All: Under the protection of St. John the Baptist, our Patron, may we discern and implement what is best for this Archdiocese and all the People of God who dwell within our Archdiocese. May we have the courage to embrace renewal and to accept the promise of new life that is being offered to us. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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“DO NOT BE AFRAID”

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, and take our fear away;

All: replace it with your love.

Word of God: Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob,
and formed you, O Israel:

Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the water,
I will be with you; in the rivers, you shall not drown.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned,
and the flames shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Silent Reflection Questions for Faith Sharing

The prophet Isaiah insists that the humiliation of Israel in being sent into exile was the punishment of God for sin. Yet Israel is still the servant of God. God has redeemed Israel and promises to protect it during any ordeal.

- As we participate in this process of Archdiocesan renewal, what fears do I - and the people of our Church - have?
- What can we do to help build our community's confidence that God will lead us through this time of change? (If people are reluctant to share, proclaim the Scripture passage a second time.)

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence, we now offer God our prayers and our needs:

We pray for openness to new possibilities and opportunities, we pray to the Lord....

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: And for what else shall we pray...



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Lord's Prayer

Leader: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us offer the prayer Christ taught us: Our Father...

Closing Prayer

Leader: Almighty God and Father, we the people of the Archdiocese of St. John's prayerfully look to the future. During this time of renewal, we implore the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us the gifts of wisdom, and hope. May we have the courage to embrace renewal and to accept the promise of new life that is being offered to us.

All: May we exercise the virtue of prudence by opening our hearts and minds to be good stewards of the legacy of faith inherited from those who built the Church in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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“DYING AND RISING”

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: Bless the Lord God at all times; Lord, we ask you to guide us in your paths.

All: so that all that we do may be rooted in You, Lord.

Leader: Lord, we ask for the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, that we may do what is right and pleasing to you in sincerity of heart.

All: So that all that we do may be rooted in You, Lord.

Word of God: John 20:11-18

Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping.

And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been.

And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?”

She said to them, “They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him.”

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

She thought it was the gardener and said to him,

“Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabboni” (which means Teacher)!

Jesus said to her, “Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and tell them,

‘I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary of Magdalen went and announced to the disciples,

“I have seen the Lord,” and what he told her.

Silent Reflection Questions for Faith Sharing

Dying and rising, even on a daily basis, are part of the Christian life cycle.

- Recall one such cycle in your own life: a time when you had some sense of “new life” after a time of struggle or darkness.
- What was it like for you to experience the joy of the “new life”?
- Did God seem to be a part of that experience?



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➤ If so, in what way?
(If people are reluctant to share, proclaim the Scripture passage a second time.)

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence, we now offer God our prayers and our needs
We pray for those who are suffering through war or domestic violence, we pray to the
Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: And for what else shall we pray...

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us offer the prayer Christ taught
us: Our Father...

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Almighty God and Father, we the people of the Archdiocese of St. John's
prayerfully look to the future. During this time of renewal, we implore the Holy Spirit to
pour out upon us the gifts of wisdom and hope. May we have the courage to embrace
renewal and to accept the promise of new life that is being offered to us.

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stewards of the legacy of faith inherited from those who built the Church in Newfoundland
and Labrador.

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that the voices of persons from all generations, all vocations and all areas of the
Archdiocese are welcomed and respected.

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and acknowledge the spiritual and practical realities of our day and prepare for the days
to come.

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accept the changes in diocesan, parish and personal life that the Holy Spirit, through this
planning process, is guiding us to make.



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All: Under the protection of St. John the Baptist, our Patron, may we discern and implement what is best for the diocesan Church and all the People of God who dwell within our Archdiocese. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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“CLAY IN THE HANDS OF THE POTTER”

Invitation to Prayer

Leader: Speak to us, O God.

All: Speak to us your truth. **Leader:** Dwell with us, O God. **All:** Dwell with us in love.

Word of God: Jeremiah 18:1-6

This word came to Jeremiah from the Lord:

Rise up, be off to the potter's house; there I will give you my message.
I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at the wheel.
Whenever the object of clay, which he was making, turned out badly in his hand,
he tried again, making of the clay another object of whatever sort he pleased.

Then the word of the Lord came to me:

Can I not do to you, O house of Israel, as this potter has done? Says the Lord.
Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, house of Israel.

Silent Reflection Question for Faith Sharing

In what ways is it difficult, in what ways is it easy, to see yourself, our parishes, or our diocese in the hands of God, the Potter?

(If people are reluctant to share, proclaim the Scripture passage a second time.)

Intercessory Prayers

Leader: In confidence, we now offer God our prayers and our needs.
We pray for an increase in faith, we pray to the Lord...

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: And for what else shall we pray...

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us offer the prayer Christ taught us: Our Father...

Closing Prayer:



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PRAYER AT A TIME OF STALEMATE

Leader: Now that we seem to be at an impasse, let us pause for prayer...

All: Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray.

We have come to a position from which we are unable to move ahead in unison.

And so, we pause to ask your divine assistance.

Help us to back away from this issue

So that we might view it from a vantage point

not weighed down by personal interests or colored with a merely practical logic.

As we pray in silence,

guide us to resolve this issue by the light of the Gospels,

with the gentleness and compassion of Christ and with true humility of heart.

Silent prayer for perhaps 5 to 15 minutes,

allowing people to leave the room for a period of reflection.

Upon returning:

Leader: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us offer the prayer Christ taught us... Our Father...

Leader: Lord, we come together again in your holy name.

All: Having been nourished by the stillness, and having heard the divine voice within our hearts, let us resume our meeting to see if we can reach a decision that is for our common good and for the good of the whole Church. May we have the courage to embrace renewal and to accept the promise of new life that is being offered to us. Amen.



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INTERCESSIONS FOR THE PASTORAL PLAN FOR PARISH RENEWAL AND RESTRUCTURING

- We pray for an increase of the of faith, hope, love and courage as the Church in the Archdiocese of St. John's enters into the process of renewal and growth; we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray that God, who pours out all good gifts abundantly, may pour out upon our Archdiocese the gift of courage to embrace renewal and to accept the promise of new life that is being offered to us; we pray to the Lord; ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit as we discern the future of our Archdiocese and parishes, we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray for patience as we strive to discern the will of the Spirit as we plan for the restructuring of our parishes, we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray for perseverance to continue to work as builders of the Reign of God as we plan for the future, we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray for sensitivity to ideas and opinions that differ from ours, we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray for creativity to plan for parish life with a new vision, we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray for a desire to move from selfishness to selflessness as we plan for the future, we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray for imagination to discover the possibilities that can lead our parish and our people into the future, we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray for gentleness in thought and in word as we discern the will of the Spirit for our parishes, we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***
- We pray for peace and unity in our homes, our Church, and our world, we pray to the Lord: ***Lord, hear our prayer.***