**Universal Prayer**

**Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

**World Day of Prayer for the Consecrated Life**

**2nd February 2025**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, this Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

unites the Church in prayer for the women and men

who have consecrated their lives to Jesus Christ

through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

1. For Pope Francis, as he leads the consecrated women and men of the Church into this Jubilee of Hope on the Path of Peace, that they will be filled with hope and serve the people with integrity.

Let us pray for the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For the Religious in our Archdiocese,

that through faithful prayer, active charity and compassionate service,

they will be strong witnesses to hope, laying a foundation for peace

wherever the minister.

Let us pray for the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For the whole Church, that the meeting of the young parents, Joseph and Mary with the elderly holy people, Simeon and Anna,

centered upon Jesus, will be a sign of hope across the generations.

Let us pray for the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For the consecrated Sisters, Brothers and Priests of the Holy Land and Ukraine, and in every place where there is violence, political unrest and religious persecution, that they will be sustained in hope through our prayer and the peaceful presence of Jesus.

Let us pray for the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For our elderly religious, that their prayer will be for the Church and for peace, and for younger people, that they may receive the invitation from Jesus to follow him through the mission of a consecrated life.

Let us pray for the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For

Let us pray for the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For the departed consecrated women and men who were killed in the service of the Gospel and those who have died in our Archdiocese,

that they will be caught up in eternal praise and adoration.

We also remember

Let us pray for the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Father, throughout our Christian history

 you have invited women and men to consecrate their lives

 to Jesus Christ for worship and for service.

 Sustain in hope those who live dedicated lives today,

 and make them always instruments of your peace.

 Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Monday 3rd February 2025**

**St Blaise**

**Fourth** **Week in Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: Jesus has shown his power over the forces of evil

 and by his word bought calm to a tormented man.

1. May we honour the memory of the first Christian Service offered in Australia on this day in Syndey in 1788, and pray for all people who

are denied freedom of religion in the world today.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May those whose mental illness leads them to inflict injuries upon themselves, find the medical and emotional support

 which will alleviate their distress.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May those who work with severely mentally ill people

be filled with courage and compassion, and always show respect

for those in their care.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May all, who like the Judges and Prophets of ancient times,

are persecuted for their faith, tortured and imprisoned, be sustained

with courage and hope.

 Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May those placed under the patronage of St Blaise – the people of his land Armenia, those with diseases of the throat and those seeking protection from such illnesses – that they may know his powerful intercession.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May the ceasefire in the Holy Land hold firm, and peace come to Ukraine, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Father, you have shown us the wonders of your love

In Jesus. Keep us safe from all harm.

Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Tuesday 4th February 2025**

**Fourth Week in Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: My friends, the word of God has revealed the grief of parents at the death of one of their children and the compassion of Jesus.

1. That this International Day of Human Fraternity, arising from the visit of Pope Francis and his dialogue with the Muslim community in Abu Dhabi, in 2021, bring hope to the world, respect between faiths, and harmony in action.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. That parents who are anxious or distressed

at the sickness of a son or daughter may turn to God in prayer

and find all the strength they need at this difficult time.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. That women who are sick may find inspiration in the faith

of the woman of the gospel, and approach Jesus in prayer

with simplicity, trust and humility.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. That on this World Cancer Day we will pray for all who suffer from cancer in its many forms, receive the support they need, and put their hope in God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. That people who live with cancer in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, Sudan and Myanmar, who cannot access medical care at this time

pray with hope, and quickly receive the support which they need.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Eternal God, see the many needs of your people

and answer our prayer. Through Christ our Lord

**The Universal Prayer**

**Wednesday 5th February 2025**

**St Agatha**

**Fourth Week in Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: From the beginning of Jesus’ ministry he met with

 opposition, yet he continued in a spirit of trust and hope.

1. May those who teach the Gospel in situations of danger,

always be filled with the courage and strength of Jesus.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May bishops, priests and deacons who see that the Gospel they

preach is rejected or treated with indifference, not loose heart, but continue to live out their vocation as teachers of the word with great hope.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May each of us carry our daily cross with dignity

since suffering is part of our training, helping us to mature

in the Christian life, producing the fruits of peace and goodness.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May those placed under the patronage of the martyr, St Agatha, know the

 power of her prayers: the community of Arthurton, bell founders, wet

nurses, those with breast cancer, and those threatened by volcanic eruption and fire.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May this Burns Awareness Week help us to be sensitive to all who suffer

from burns through bushfires, work and home accidents and to pray for

all suffering the effects of explosions in the Holy Land and Ukraine wars.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Father,

 let your everlasting kindness

 bless all people.

 Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Thursday 6th February 2025**

**St Paul Miki and Companions**

**4th Week in Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, as we recall Jesus gathering the Twelve around him to assist in the ministry of preaching and healing. we pray for those who continue their ministry in the Church.

1. May missionaries not be burdened with unnecessary material possessions, but with glad hearts, reveal the compassionate face of Christ to the people they serve.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. May the people of Japan be respectful of the diversity of religion in their land as the Church honours the Japanese Martyrs of Nagasaki, St Paul

Miki and Companions, priests, lay men and teenagers.

Let us pray to the Lord.

3 May the Catholics of Japan, and those living in Australia, cling to Christ,

and witness to hope in him during this Holy Year of Hope.

Let us pray to the Lord.

4 May the ceasefire hold in Gaza, hostages and prisoners continue to be

released, humanitarian aid reach those in need, and the violence on the

West Bank give way to peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

5 May the persecution of the Church in Nicaragua give way to respect and

freedom, the political tensions in South Korea be resolved, and the starvation in Sudan be addressed.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Lord our God,

 you are our ruler, the one who gives strength

 in the face of adversity, who sustains us in love.

 Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Friday 7th February 2025**

**4th Week in Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, the story of the martyrdom of St John the Baptist shows his courage in stark contrast to the evil desires of Herod and Herodias.

1. May those who manipulate other people for their own ambition come to respect the dignity of others without fear or favour.

Let us pray to the Lord.

2 May those who are treated unjustly or cruelty retain their sense of self-

worth and live with dignity and hope throughout their ordeal.

Let us pray to the Lord.

3 May there be a good spirit in our Church community so that we may love

one another like brothers and sisters, and remember to welcome strangers warmly.

Let us pray to the Lord.

4 May those who are in prison, especially those who are tortured or

 are being badly treated as political prisoners, especially in Israel, Gaza,

Ukraine and Russia or because of their Christian faith in Nicaragua and China, receive justice and mercy.

Let us pray to the Lord.

5 May this 16th Anniversary of ‘Black Saturday’ Victorian bushfires, in which 209 people died, bring them eternal rest, and those enduring present bushfires in Victoria at this time receive help from firefighters and the community.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Lord, you are our light and our salvation. Help us at all times

 and keep us faithful to Jesus Christ, who lives forever and ever.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Saturday 8th February 2025**

**St Josephine Bakhita St Jerome Emiliani**

**Fourth Week of Ordinary Time**

Celebrant: Dear friends, the compassion of Jesus for the crowds

 continues to inspire the Church

 to have a love and concern for all peoples.

1. That the Church in her members may work for the welfare of all people

of every race, religion and culture by promoting justice with mercy.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. That we, like Jesus, may find that quiet place

where we can be alone with the Father in prayer.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. That we may keep on doing good works and sharing our blessings with those who are struggling.

Let us pray to the Lord.

4 That the people of South Sudan and Sudan who honour St Josephine
 Bakhita today, be free from present war, starvation and difficulties, and
 may her prayers bring peace and deliver them from corruption and deceit.

Let us pray to the Lord.

5 That women and girls who are abused as slaves and are the victims of human trafficking, may find in the courage of St Josephine, herself a slave, hope to sustain them, as people of goodwill strive to end this evil which robs people of their freedom.

Let us pray to the Lord.

1. That children abandoned, especially in present day wars and because of

Poverty, will know the prayers of their patron, St Jerome Emiliani.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Shepherd King, guide us along the right path

 and by your goodness and kindness bring us to

 our eternal home. Through Christ our Lord.