**The Universal Prayer**

**Sunday 1st June 2025**

**Ascension of the Lord**

**World Communications Day**

Celebrant: The return of Jesus to his Father in heaven holds out to us the sure hope of sharing the rich glories which he promised to those who believe and love.

**Australia**

1. May the appeal of Pope Leo at his Inauguration for the visible

 unity of all Christians, centered upon Jesus, be echoed across

 Australia as we begin today the Week of Prayer for Christian

 Unity.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

**Outside Australia**

1. May the appeal made by Pope Leo at his inauguration for the unity of all Christians, centered upon Jesus, be our prayer and desire also.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

 2 May the conclusion of the Jubilee of Families, Children,

 Grandparents and the Elderly, taking place in Rome today,

 bring many blessings across the generations to all families.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. May the Ascension of Jesus nourish our hope in this Jubilee

Year, so that we accompany one another on this pilgrimage of life with our sight and heart set on living forever in the joy of heaven.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

 4 May the theme of this year’s World Communications Day:

 “Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts”, help

 advance communication through the media which leads to

 dialogue and not aggression.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

**Australia**

1. May this National Reconciliation Week give new energy to the

 to the quest for justice for our First Nations People so that their

 dignity is honoured and opportunities for the young are

 enhanced.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. May the terrible violence inflicted upon the people of Gaza and

 Ukraine, in Myanmar and the persecution of Christians in

 Nigeria and Kenya give way to peace; and people affected by

 floods in New South Wales receive the support they need.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. May our departed relatives, friends and parishioners enter the

 heavenly home opened for us by our Ascended Lord.

 We pray also for . . .

 that they may reign with Jesus Christ.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

Celebrant: Father, we sing your praises

 for you have taken your Son Jesus

into your glory

and given to him a Name above all names.

May we reverence him,

 who lives forever and ever.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Monday 2nd June 2025**

**Saints Marcellinus and Peter**

**7th Week of Easter**

Celebrant: We pray that all people

 may fine true peace in Jesus Christ.

1. May those who are experiencing trouble in their lives

at this time, be brave, for Christ has conquered the world.

Christ, hear us.

1. May the Australian Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue,

continue with greater enthusiasm since Pope Leo has made Christian Unity a priority in his ministry.

Christ, hear us.

1. May each one of us, when we feel alone,

take heart from the word of Jesus, who has told us that the Father is always with us.

Christ, hear us.

1. May peace come to the suffering people of Gaza and the Occupied West Bank in Palestine, in Ukraine and Myanmar, so that they may return to their lands and rebuild their homes.

Christ, hear us.

1. May this World Eating Disorders Action Day increase our concern for our youth who are so affected, so that their families, medical professionals, psychiatrists and psychologists can give the appropriate support.

Christ, hear us.

1. May the witness of Saints Marcellinus and Peter, who in prison gave witness to Jesus to the other prisoners, be with prisoners today, giving them hope that their lives can be a gift to others by their faith, charity and mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Heavenly God, be a Father to orphans a defender of widows and a friend to the lonely, so that all may praise you. Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Tuesday 3nd June**

**St Charles Lwanga and Companions**

**7th Week of Easter**

Celebrant: My friends, Jesus has promised us eternal life:

a life in which we know the Father

and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

1. That the faith of every Christian in Australia

may be strengthened as we are united in spirit

during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Christ, hear us.

1. That we may remember with sorrow the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989, pray for all who died and those injured and for the freedom of conscience for the Chinese people.

Christ, hear us.

1. That we who live in the world may be heartened by Christ’s prayer,

for we belong to him, and believe that he came from the Father as his own beloved Son.

Christ, hear us.

1. That each of us may, like St Paul, finish the race of life with a clear conscience and a loving heart.

Christ, hear us.

1. That the young martyrs of Uganda, St Charles Lwanga and his

companions, may be an example of faith and courage to the Christian youth of the African continent as they face many diverse difficulties.

Christ, hear us.

1. That this final day of Reconciliation Week will see our governments work together to ‘bridge the gap’ that all disadvantages are eliminated.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Eternal Father, where there is drought, pour down a generous rain, so that all people will know that you are a God of tenderness. Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Wednesday 4th June 2025**

**7th Week of Easter**

Celebrant: At the Last Supper Jesus prayed for his disciples,

 asking the Father to protect them from the evil one.

1. May this International Day of Innocent Children Victims of

Aggression cause the strongest prayer to rise from the hearts of all believers on behalf of all the children traumatised and injured in war.

Christ, hear us.

2 May God hear the desperate cries of children who are

 kidnapped, imprisoned, abused, denied education, made into

child soldiers and into forced marriages because of aggression.

Christ, hear us.

3 May each of us, baptised in Christ and consecrated in his truth,

 always be true to the Father’s Name.

 Christ, hear us.

4. May the joy of Christ be in the heart of every Christian

as we pray and work for that full and visible unity,

which is the will of Christ.

Christ, hear us.:

5 May the members of the Roman Catholic – Uniting Church

Dialogue build upon all that we hold in common in our faith,

and seek better understanding of what separates us.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Almighty God, we acknowledge your power

which has given us life, raised your only Son to glory

and blessed us with faith in him.

Unite us and make us holy.

Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Thursday 5th June 2025**

**St Boniface**

**7th Week of Easter**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, at the Last Supper Jesus prayed for the unity of his followers.

1. We pray that the ministry of Pope Leo may have the support of every person who carries the Name of Jesus in their heart.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray that the missionary zeal of St Boniface, patron of Germany and the Adelaide Catholic German Community, will inspire the Church of our time to embrace a missionary spirit, giving witness to Jesus.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray that the dialogue between the Catholic Church and the

Orthodox Churches may bear much fruit in our time,

and lead to offering the Eucharist together at the one table.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray for those who are prisoners because of their faith, as was St Paul long ago, that those in authority will treat them with justice.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray on this World Environment Day with its theme, “Beat Plastic Pollution”, that we will all respond to it enthusiastically,

recycling where possible, be discerning in the packaging of products we buy, and never littering in the community.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray that wars will end across the world where so much damage is being done to our environment and the lives of people

are destroyed without mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Lord our God, hear our sincere prayers and grant them. Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Friday 6th June 2025**

**St Norbert. St Marcellin Champagnant**

**7th Week of Easter**

Celebrant: Jesus reverses the triple betrayal of Peter,

 by evoking from his heart a triple profession of love.

 We pray that our faith may also

be expressed through love

1. May Pope Leo, successor to the apostle Peter, first and foremost,

 and before all else, love Jesus Christ from the very depth of his

 being as a living sign of the unity for all Christians.

Christ, hear us.

1. May the work of the Catholic Church in dialoging with

the newer Pentecostal Communities, lead to better understanding which will form another step towards full Christian unity.

 Christ, hear us.

1. May war and terrorism come to an end in Palestine, Ukraine, and

 Myanmar and every place where there is violence.

 Christ, hear us.

1. May the Marist Brothers, and students and staffs in schools of their

tradition, especially Sacred Heart College, continue to find in their founder, St Marcellin Champagnant, an example of respect and concern for youth.

Christ, hear us.

1. May St Norbert, the first religious founder of a monastery to

include lay associates, intercede for women and men, who while living in the world, live the spirit of many Orders as associates of them.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Lord God, your love for us is strong. Receive our thanksgiving and praise as we enter into the mystery of the Eucharist. Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Saturday 7th June 2025**

**7th Week of Easter**

Celebrant: Dear friends, we are almost at the end of the Easter Season and as we await for the Spirit to renew the Church and the world we pray with confidence.

1 That as Pope Leo welcomes those participating in the Jubilee of Movements, Associations and New Communities today, he may encourage them to seek holiness with hope, and serve with great charity. Christ, hear us.

1. That we may receive the word of God with faith, reflect upon its

 message, and find nourishment for our daily Christian lives.

Christ, hear us.

3. That as Mary was united with the disciples,

awaiting the Holy Spirit, so may she be with us in our prayer

as we prepare to celebrate the Festival of Pentecost tomorrow.

Christ, hear us.

4. That the members of the Australian and South Australian Councils

of Churches may be energetic in their efforts to work with the Spirit for the full unity of the Church. Christ, hear us.

5 That there may be peace in every war-torn country. Christ, hear us.

6 That this World Tourette Syndrome Awareness Day will help us to

grow in understanding of this syndrome and be sensitive toward people who manifest its symptoms. Christ, hear us.

7 That this World Food Safety Day will alert all who prepare for

others at home, in restaurants, hospitals, residential care home and take away establishments of the responsibility which they carry toward the welfare of others.

 Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Father, you hate violence and love justice.

Renew in our hearts the presence and power of the Holy Spirit so that we may be led in your ways.

Through Christ our Lord.