

Perpetual Day of Remembrance

Resources for Individuals and Households

Tuesday September 15, 2020



Shine the Light of Christ

Ode to the Light of Christ

Background information

Shine the Light of Christ 2020 resources



Ode to the Light of Christ

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.
Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy.
Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 2:5)

Come, let us bring light from the darkness.
Let us make evil good
and find sweet in the bitter.
Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:20)

Come, let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress.
Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:30)

Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness.
Let them see the great Light of God
and let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 9:2)

Background

2017

As part of [Lina's Project](#), Bishop Bill Wright established September 15 as a *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* throughout the diocese. Such a day holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding in the lives of those directly and indirectly affected.

The intention is that this day be marked in a variety of ways including survivor led events which will develop from year to year. It is hoped these events provide an opportunity for all of us to stand with survivors.

It is equally important that the Church mark this day with prayer, ritual and worship. As a people of faith, commissioned by Jesus to live in remembrance of him, we know the importance and power of remembering. Our remembering not only functions to ensure that such abuse never happens again. More than that, our liturgical remembering is permeated with the light of Christ's Paschal Mystery becoming the source of our ongoing conversion and hope. It is only with the power of this light that our eyes and hearts will be open to discerning the cultural change necessary for the Church to be ever more truly a sign and instrument of God's reign right here and right now.

Our Church response is shaped by our liturgical wisdom and experience, and by the light of the Paschal Mystery. It too will grow and develop from year to year.

2018

2018 saw a small start in the way the Church community marked the day. Resources were provided to all parishes for the celebration of Mass on Sunday September 16. The focus was on Mass at the Sacred Heart Cathedral where Bishop Bill presided.

2019

In 2019 the Diocesan Liturgy Council established a Perpetual Day of Remembrance Standing Committee. This committee worked in collaboration with Healing and Support Services, the Office of Safeguarding and Bishop Bill. The Church response was named **Shine the light of Christ**. This title captures the essence of the Church's mandate to repent, believe and proclaim the Good News, especially in the darkest places of our human experience. Three resources were developed to enable the participation of all people irrespective of their affiliation with a parish community: a resource for parishes, another for Church agencies, group and schools, and another for individuals and households.

September 15 fell on a Sunday and the parish resource focused on Sunday Mass. The Standing Committee finalised its work by undertaking an evaluation by all members of the community. The feedback though small, was collated to inform the future development of the Church's response to the *Perpetual Day of Remembrance*.

2020

The Diocesan Liturgy Council's Standing Committee established in 2019 gathered again to prepare resources for 2020. A development this year has been the establishment of the 'Perpetual Day of Remembrance and Child Protection Week Coordinating Committee'. This has enhanced consultation with Healing and Support Services, the Office of

Safeguarding and provided a platform for further consultation with Bishop Bill and Fr Andrew Doohan, the Vicar General.

2020 has also presented its own challenge – the COVID-19 pandemic – which continues to impact all aspects of life across the nation. Schools, parishes and households are experiencing uncertainty, grief, change and restrictions. The primary concern remains the safety and wellbeing of communities and individuals. In the midst of these circumstances it is important that our commitment to the *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* remains strong.

Because of COVID-19 it has not been possible to facilitate a survivor led event this year. Without the opportunity to gather, survivors and their families will acknowledge the day as is most appropriate for them.

The significant development in the Church response for 2020 is Bishop Bill's decision to [decree](#) *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* as a feast day to be inscribed in the diocesan liturgical calendar. It will be celebrated on the Sunday of or prior to September 15 replacing the Mass for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. This has enabled us to determine the readings and prayers used for the celebration of Mass on this Sunday.

This decree will assist parishes in resolving clashes with other events as experienced last year. Parishes will be able to ensure that sacraments of initiation, first reconciliation, altar server graduations and other events are scheduled for other weekends.

True to the nature of Catholic prayer and liturgy, some aspects of our Church response will remain the same every year, other things will change, and new things will be included as we continue to change and grow.

The *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* continues to push us to think deeply about what it means to be and live Catholic. 'Catholic' is a big word. Our unity is marked by enormous diversity. As noted in some of the evaluations received last year, this diversity requires great sensitivity in discerning our communal faith response. No matter what we do, some will appreciate it and some will find it challenging and even offensive. Some want us to keep remembering our history of child sexual abuse and some find the constant reminders harmful.

The following resources seek to respect this diversity by giving communities and individuals a range of choices, from Sunday Mass to something as simple and powerful as turning on a light.

As a faith community it is important for all of us to recognise that this day responds to a deep need in some of our brothers and sisters. As members of the community of Jesus' disciples – irrespective of our affiliation with the worshipping community – we stand together, with survivors, against all forms of abuse and for cultural change that will promote fullness of life for all. As the saying goes, 'It takes a village ...' We need every glimmer of light if together we hope to **Shine the light of Christ** into this dark space: a light of solidarity, a light of prayer, a light of courage and commitment to change, a light of healing and hope.

Louise Gannon rsj

Diocesan Manager of Worship and Prayer

With the Diocesan Liturgy Council and its Standing Committee: Perpetual Day of Remembrance
Allen Brierley, Monique Crick, Andrew Doohan, Fiona Duque, Uta France, Louise Gannon, Anne Millard, Cathy White, Ed Wright, Daniel Lee Chun Wei, Andrew Slater.

Shine the Light of Christ Vigil

Individuals, families, housemates and communities.

To draw a line of continuity with *Child Protection Week*, we invite you to begin our *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* with a Shine the Light of Christ Vigil.

You are invited to turn/leave on a light on Saturday night September 12, the last day of *Child Protection Week* and the Vigil Mass for *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday*, and to continue this practice through to and including Monday night September 14.

This is a simple and public way to show we stand with survivors, their families and friends, and that we are committed to **Shine the Light of Christ** on this issue and in our world. There is a *Prayer for Turning on the Light of Christ* and one for turning off the light below.

Prayer for turning on 'the light of Christ'

God with us,
you have made us in your image
and filled us with the breath of your divine life.
Through the life of Jesus
you show us the way to proclaim the greatness of your love in our lives.

As darkness falls may these lights remind us
of our mission to shine the light of your love
on the darkness of our Church and world.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

Where people are disempowered
 may we shine the light of your saving wisdom.
Where there is privilege and prestige
 may we shine the light of your humility
Where there is dishonesty and denial
 may we shine the light of your truth.
Where transparency doesn't exist, and agendas are hidden
 may we shine the light of your integrity.
Where there is fear
 may we shine the light of your courage.
Where there is judgement
 may we shine the light of your compassion.
Where there is disrespect
 may we shine the light of your love.
Where people feel silenced



may we shine the light of your word.
Where people feel excluded
may we shine the light of your acceptance.
Where there is sin
may we shine the light of your forgiveness.

Create a clean heart in us O God.

For turning off the lights

Day has dawned.
As we turn off our lights
we commit to shining the light of Christ in all we do throughout our day.

Song: *If not Now* by Carrie Newcomer

Carrie Newcomer and her manager have given us permission again to use her beautiful song 'If Not Now' in association with the 2020 Day of Perpetual Remembrance.

'If Not Now' is a beautiful song about a change of heart. You can watch the song video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bY585-fzSs>

It is also available for listening and purchase on most music platforms.

Listening to this song or watching the video is a very reflective and prayerful experience for individuals and households.

Some of Carrie's other songs are also a rich source for reflection and prayer.

'Ode to the Light of Christ' by Fiona Duque

Fiona Duque from St Bede's Catholic College Chisholm has written a beautiful *Ode to the Light of Christ*.

This can be used for personal or household prayer. If the latter, in keeping with the traditional way we proclaim an Ode, for example on Anzac Day, we recommend that it be read by one person and listened to by others. **See p. 2.**

This Ode will remain one of the permanent features of the Church response to the *Perpetual Day of Remembrance*.

Sunday Mass for September 13 (including the Saturday night Vigil)

As previously indicated, in 2020, *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* falls on Sunday September 13.

As a community of faith we can do nothing better than bring the diocesan *Perpetual Day of Remembrance* to our celebration of eucharist; to join our story of abuse and suffering to Christ's offering, that the light of the Paschal Mystery will convert our hearts and lead us forward in faith and hope.

If you would like to join in a parish Mass on this weekend you are most welcome. Because of COVID-19 it would be best to check the parish website or office regarding any requirements such as registration.

The text for this Mass is available in the parish resource on the diocesan [website](#).

Mass for September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows (Memorial)

September 15 falls on Tuesday this year. It is the Twenty-Fourth Week of Ordinary Time and the memorial for Our Lady of Sorrows.

You are welcome to join the parish community for what would be a quieter Mass on the day. Parish Mass times can be found on the diocesan [website](#) or the Diocesan [App](#).

Given COVID-19 it would be advisable to ring the parish to check the Mass times.

Praying with Scripture

Some people may like to spend time praying with scripture. There are endless ways of doing this that focus on quietly reading the text and waiting in silence for the word and invitation you hear God offering you. This then leads to your own prayer, your word responding to God.

You will find the readings for *Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday* in the parish resource found on the diocesan [website](#):

- The first reading is on p. 16
- The psalm on p. 17
- The second reading on p. 17
- The Gospel on p. 18

The Prayer of the Faithful is on p. 19-20 if you would like to pray that prayer.

Acknowledgements

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Shine the Light of Christ