

# Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse

## Resources | Prayers

### Introduction

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM) has highlighted the importance of prayer and suggested to Pope Francis that the worldwide Catholic Church should join together in a day of prayer. The Holy Father has welcomed this initiative.

In the Cycle of Prayer for England and Wales, this day is marked every year on the Friday of the fifth week of Lent.

On Friday 12 April the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is encouraging the Catholic community to take part in a day of prayer for survivors of sexual abuse.

### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Divine Spirit of light and love,  
we consecrate our minds and hearts and wills  
To You today and for all eternity.

Our Church has been broken  
by sin and scandal.  
Shameful acts have harmed innocent children,  
betrayed a sacred trust and offended You, our God.  
How can we make reparation for these offenses?

We beg You  
Holy Spirit  
send the fire of Your purifying love  
Holy Spirit  
water our dryness with Your rivers of new life  
Holy Spirit  
breathe on us the sweet refreshment of Your mercy  
Holy Spirit  
restore hope and faith that we may be one in You

We open to your constant presence and never-failing help  
as we seek to faithfully imitate the life and virtues of Christ our Lord.  
To the Father, through Christ, in You, Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory for ever.  
Amen

## Armagh Prayer

Lord, we are so sorry  
for what some of us did to your children:  
treated them so cruelly,  
especially in their hour of need.  
We have left them with a life-long suffering.  
this was not your plan for them or us.  
Please help us to help them.  
Guide us Lord.  
Amen.

Archdiocese of Armagh

God of mercy,  
it was not your plan that children should be abused –  
that vulnerable people's lives should be destroyed –  
nor that people called to goodness should give way to temptation to abuse  
or to cover up the sinful actions of others.  
The work of the Enemy has broken the heart of your Church –  
but the work of Christ will be its healing and redemption.  
In our sorrow and shame, we turn to you –  
our only source of hope.  
Give us faith to believe that you can bring light from this darkness;  
give us hope that the future can be built on the foundations of truth and justice;  
give us love that we each play our part –  
however great – however small -  
in your great work of healing the broken Body of Christ.

Wellsprings

God of Compassion,  
You are teaching us to face truths that we would rather not see –  
You are showing us that some of those entrusted with authority  
have not followed the model of your Son  
but have abused their power –  
You are showing us that the hurts of abuse go far deeper than we had known  
and have wrecked countless lives.  
You are refusing to let us pretend any longer  
that we do not know what some of us have done –  
that we do not see the brokenness of the Body of Christ –  
that we do not hear the demands for justice –  
that the sufferings of the victims and survivors  
and the sins of the perpetrators have nothing to do with us.  
But by taking away the shrouds of pretence and denial,  
you unveil the possibilities of reparation and reconciliation  
of deepened compassion and heartfelt empathy.  
In this work you lay before us,  
may Christ be our model and guide,  
and the Holy Spirit our inspiration  
and Giver of the gifts your Church will need  
to bring healing to herself and to all your Children.

Wellsprings