

Knowing God

Knowing the presence of God in my life means *being* present to God.

Finding peace and stillness in my heart means *resting* in God's words.

Sharing the love of God with others means *welcoming* God's unconditional love.

Following the way of Jesus means *walking* in his footsteps.

Prayer to Jesus

Christ be with me.

Christ be beside me.

Christ be before me.

Christ be behind me.

Christ at my right hand.

Christ at my left hand.

Christ be with me everywhere I go.

Christ be my friend, for ever and ever.

**Paidir d'losa**

Críost liom.

Críost romham.

Críost i mo dhiaidh.

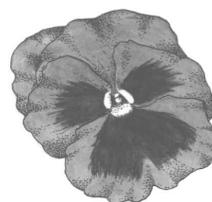
Críost ionam.

Críost ar mo dheis.

Críost ar mo chlé.

Críost i mo chuideachta is cuma ca dtéim.

Críost mar chara agam, anois is go buan.



Prayer Service 4: We are Called to be Disciples of Jesus

Preparation

You will need:

- A crib or nativity scene
- A baptismal candle
- A circle (made of wire)
- A crucifix
- A bowl of water

Sign of the Cross

Leader What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?
How are we to live our lives?
What values should be closest to our hearts?
We see what it means to be a disciple in what Jesus did, in what Jesus taught, in what Jesus chose when he lived in Palestine. When Jesus calls us to be disciples, he calls us to be like him.

Reader 1 (*presenting a crib or nativity scene*)
Jesus was born in an occupied land.
His birth took place in the very humble surroundings of a stable.
His first visitors were illiterate, simple and hard-working shepherds.
Threatened by Herod, he was forced to flee to another country with Mary and Joseph.

Reader 2 (*presenting a baptismal candle*)
Though sinless, Jesus humbled himself and was baptised by John the Baptist.
The first followers he chose were mostly labourers. They were neither the intellectual élite nor those who made religion their profession. During his ministry, he did not have a place to call his own.

Reader 3 (*presenting a circle*)
During his life Jesus reached out to many people. He let them know that they were among God's circle of friends. But Jesus seems to have had a preference for people who were sick, for lepers. Jesus made a special effort to include those who were crippled, blind or deformed. He spent time with those whom others shunned: the possessed and those who were sick in mind. At a time when women had no say in matters of government, we hear of how women became his disciples and travelled with him.

Reader 4 (*presenting a crucifix*)
Jesus gave the power of God's love to ordinary people.
But he was opposed by those who wanted to keep God's power to themselves. False charges were brought.
He was arrested like a common criminal.
'Harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly', as the prophet Isaiah foretold.
He was assaulted, jeered at, and scourged.
He died the cruellest death imaginable, the death reserved for traitors or slaves.

Leagan nua-aoiseach na nDeich nAithne

An Chéad Aithne:

Tabhair grá ó chroí don Tiarna Dia, agus ná bíodh déithe eile agat.

An Dara Aithne:

Bíodh meas agat ar ainm an Tiarna.

An Tríú Aithne:

Coinnigh an tSabóid naofa.

An Ceathrú Aithne:

Tabhair onóir do do thuismitheoirí.

An Cúigiú Aithne:

Ná déan marú; is le Dia gach rud beo.

An Séú Aithne:

Bí dílis do do phósadh.

An Seachtú Aithne :

Ná déan goid.

An tOchtú Aithne:

Ná hinis bréaga faoi dhaoine eile.

An Naoú Aithne:

Ná santaigh aon duine a bhaineann le duine eile cheana féin.

An Deichiú Aithne:

Ná santaigh nithe a bhaineann le daoine eile cheana féin.

(cf. *Caiticiosma na hEaglaise Caitlicí*)



Inter-Faith Prayer Service 2

Preparation

You will need:

- One large candle and holder in the centre of the prayer area.
- Smaller candles (and holders) to represent each community of faith. (These can be decorated with symbols of each faith.)

Leader This Inter-faith Prayer Service offers us a special opportunity to pray for peace, to remember loved ones and to uplift our hearts and minds. Its purpose is to join people from different faith communities in a spirit of peace and harmony.

To begin:

- Representatives of each faith process from the back of the room towards the seating area with their unlit candle. One at a time, they can approach a central lit candle, light their own candle and then place it in a holder next to the main candle. Each representative remains standing in front of their candle facing the group.
- One by one, each representative offers a prayer from their own religious tradition that is universal in nature.
- When all the prayers have been said, everyone takes a seat.
- The **leader** announces that a minute of silence will begin.
- At the end of the minute of silence, the entire group, led by the teacher, recites a universal prayer for peace.

Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred ... let me sow love.

Where there is injury ... pardon.

Where there is discord ... unity.

Where there is doubt ... faith.

Where there is error ... truth.

Where there is despair ... hope.

Where there is sadness ... joy.

Where there is darkness ... light.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled ... as to console,

to be understood ... as to understand,

to be loved ... as to love.

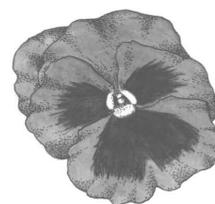
For it is in giving ... that we receive,

it is in pardoning ...

that we are pardoned,

it is in dying ...

that we are born to eternal life.



Prayers

Prayers for Part 1 – The Situation of Faith Today

Help my Unbelief

Lord God,
help my unbelief.
Guide my unsettled soul with your healing love.
Journey beside me as I stumble along life's path.
At times, I am lazy and lacking,
often cynical and careless
with my gift of faith.
Today I ask for the grace
to take my blinkers off,
and embrace your healing love.



O Lord, hear my prayer.

Faith

Father,
cause my faith to grow
so that through all the circumstances of my life
I can, in my struggle,
feel your presence and your love for me.



Hope

Father,
give me the hope
which has seen things at their worst,
and refuses to despair;
which is able to fail and try again;
which can accept disappointment and sorrow
and find joy in the hope of Resurrection.



Love

Father,
increase my love.
Help me to love people as you love them.
Teach me what love really is,
how much it costs
and the courage needed to achieve it,
today, tomorrow and for the rest of our lives.



(2.) The Confession of St Patrick

There is no other God,
 there never was and there never will be,
 than God the Father,
 unbegotten and without beginning,
 from whom is all beginning,
 holding all things as we have learned;
 and his son Jesus Christ
 whom we declare
 to have been always with the Father
 and to have been begotten spiritually by the Father
 in a way that baffles description,
 before the beginning of the world,
 before all beginning;
 and through him are made all things, visible and invisible.
 He was made man,
 defeated death
 and was received into heaven by the Father,
 who has given him all powers over all names
 in heaven, on earth, and under the earth;
 and every tongue should acknowledge to him
 that Jesus Christ is the Lord God.
 We believe in him
 and we look for his coming soon
 as judge of the living and the dead,
 who will treat every man according to his deeds.
 He has poured out the Holy Spirit on us in abundance,
 the gift and guarantee of eternal life,
 who makes those who believe and obey
 children of God and joint heirs with Christ.
 We acknowledge and adore him
 as one God in the Trinity of the holy name.

**St Patrick's Feast Day Prayer**

A Thiarna,
 trí shaothar Naomh Pádraig in Éirinn
 admháimid rúndiamhair an aon fhíor-Dhia amháin
 agus tugaimid ár mbuíochas as ár slanú i gChríost.
 Deonaigh go gcoinneoidne, chun an fhéile seo a cheiliúradh,
 tine an chreidimh, a d'adhain sé, beo i gcónaí inár measc.
 Síne é ár nguí chugat trínár dTiarna Íosa Críost do Mhac,
 a mhaireann agus a rialaíonn leatsa,
 mar aon leis an Spiorad Naomh, ina Dhia.



Meditation and Contemplation

The Rosary

The Rosary is an example of contemplative, meditative and vocal prayer. Saying the Rosary is a way of sharing in the memories of Mary, the Mother of God, and in the memories of the friends of Jesus. It gives Christians a chance to be with God, with Jesus and with Mary in a quiet, contemplative way. Repeating the 'Hail Mary' ten times (with the 'Glory be to the Father' and the 'Our Father' in between) helps those praying to find a quiet space inside themselves. It gives them an opportunity to learn from Jesus, to become like Jesus, to pray to Jesus and to celebrate Jesus.

Different themes or 'mysteries' are used to pray the Rosary on different days. The Rosary can also be a form of meditation, as the person praying can use their imagination to picture and reflect on the events connected with each mystery.

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation – Luke 1:38

Mary freely accepted the new path her life would take.

Lord we ask you to help us accept the difficult routes we must travel. Enable and strengthen us on life's journey.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's,
Glory Be to the Father

The Visitation – Luke 1:45

Mary joined her companion Elizabeth on the journey.

Thank you Lord for the gift of family and friendship. We rejoice in the company of our companions for they bring us support and love in the difficult times.

