

Prisoners



This week is Prisons Week. You can find resources for this prayer week at www.prisonsworld.org
The theme this year is 'You are not alone'.

This week's prayers are prepared by Bellerive FCJ





Monday 12th October



Read the scripture together, each taking a line to read and then spend a few moments on your own reading. Are there any words, phrases or ideas that come to you?

Sunday Scripture: The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.



Monday 12th October



PRAYING WITH PRISONERS

Spirit of grace and truth, we ask for your constant presence through the days, weeks, months and years of imprisonment. For your steady refusal to be shut out by cell walls, steel doors or reluctant and stubborn hearts. Break through the fear and isolation, shatter all pretence and deceit, guide our thoughts and actions, setting before us the example of Jesus the prisoner. Bring us face to face with the unlimited and sacrificial love of God for all his children, so that we can know we are not alone. United in prayer, we bow our heads to say together, Our Father.....

Tuesday 13th October



PRAYING WITH THE VICTIMS OF CRIME

Comforter Spirit, ease the distress and suffering of those whose lives are locked down because of crimes committed against them. Move through others to bring reassurance that they are not alone, physically or in the depths of their souls. Unlock doors that reveal a path of healing through hurt and injustice to a more peaceful place, where trust and confidence can be gradually restored.



Tuesday 13th October



PRAYING WITH THOSE WORKING IN PRISON

Spirit of refuge and renewal, be alongside all who are called to work in prisons. Give daily strength to serve courageously and faithfully through the continuing constraints of lockdown. Be present in the bringing of order, compassion, food, comfort, and humanity to all held in custody. Sustain and enable us in times of exhaustion and weariness through the sureness of your love and power.

United in prayer, watch over us as we say together, Our Father...





Wednesday 14th October

PRAYING WITH FAMILIES

Spirit of life and light, walk with us through the confusion and pain of lives forever changed by crime and imprisonment. Give us the strength to bear feelings of anger and betrayal; and to cope with the unfamiliar and frightening. Show us how to bridge the gulf which keeps us apart, revive relationships and bring reconciliation. Take our fears away and give us peace, that we can know that we're not alone.

United in prayer, we bring our sadness and our hopes as we say together, Our Father ...



Wednesday 13th October



Pray together a decade of the Rosary (Say together 10 Hail Mary's. You can use your fingers to help you count!)

Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

For this decade we focus on one of the Sorrowful Mysteries: The Agony in the Garden- Jesus prays to God, his father before his arrest. We pray today for prisoners and all who work in prisons.



Thursday 14th October

PRAYING WITH COMMUNITIES

Spirit of God, who dwells within people and places, help us magnify your kindness and goodness to overcome ignorance, alienation and hostility, to be able to see each other as people created and connected in God's image. Humble us by your power that we might have the courage to come together, physically distanced but united in purpose, called by name to serve God and our neighbours. Pour your gifts upon us, so that we can fulfil your trust in us to do our part, that your kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven.

United in prayer, we bring ourselves and offer our lives as we say together, Our Father...





Thursday 14th October

Sr Helen Prejean is a Religious sister who has spent most her life campaigning and advocating for the rights of prisoners in the USA, particularly those on death row.

In 1995 a film called Dead Man Walking focused on her work with one prisoner, on death row for rape and murder, who she became a companion to.

The film shows Sr Helen upholding the dignity and respect for all human beings, the prisoner and the family of the victims.



God of Compassion,
You let your rain fall on the just and the unjust.

Expand and deepen our hearts so that we may love as You love, even those among us who have caused the greatest pain by taking life.

Jesus, our brother,
You suffered execution at the hands of the state but you did not let hatred overcome you.
Help us to reach out to victims of violence so that our enduring love may help them heal.

Holy Spirit of God,
You strengthen us in the struggle for justice. Help us to renew our society in its very heart so that violence will be no more.

Amen.
(after Sister Helen Prejean)



Friday 9th October

PRAYING WITH THOSE WORKING IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Spirit of wisdom and mercy, lead those responsible for exercising justice in the way of truth; bring discernment, fair minded judgement and a willingness to confront injustice as they consider the lives of others. In every role and place of work through the whole criminal justice system, guide and empower people to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit.

United in prayer, we stand before you Jesus, our Judge, Redeemer and friend as we say together, Our Father...



Friday 8th October

Examen

What or who are you grateful for this week? Take a moment to thank God.

What has been challenging? Ask God to help you with this.

As you look ahead to the weekend, what would you like to ask of God?

