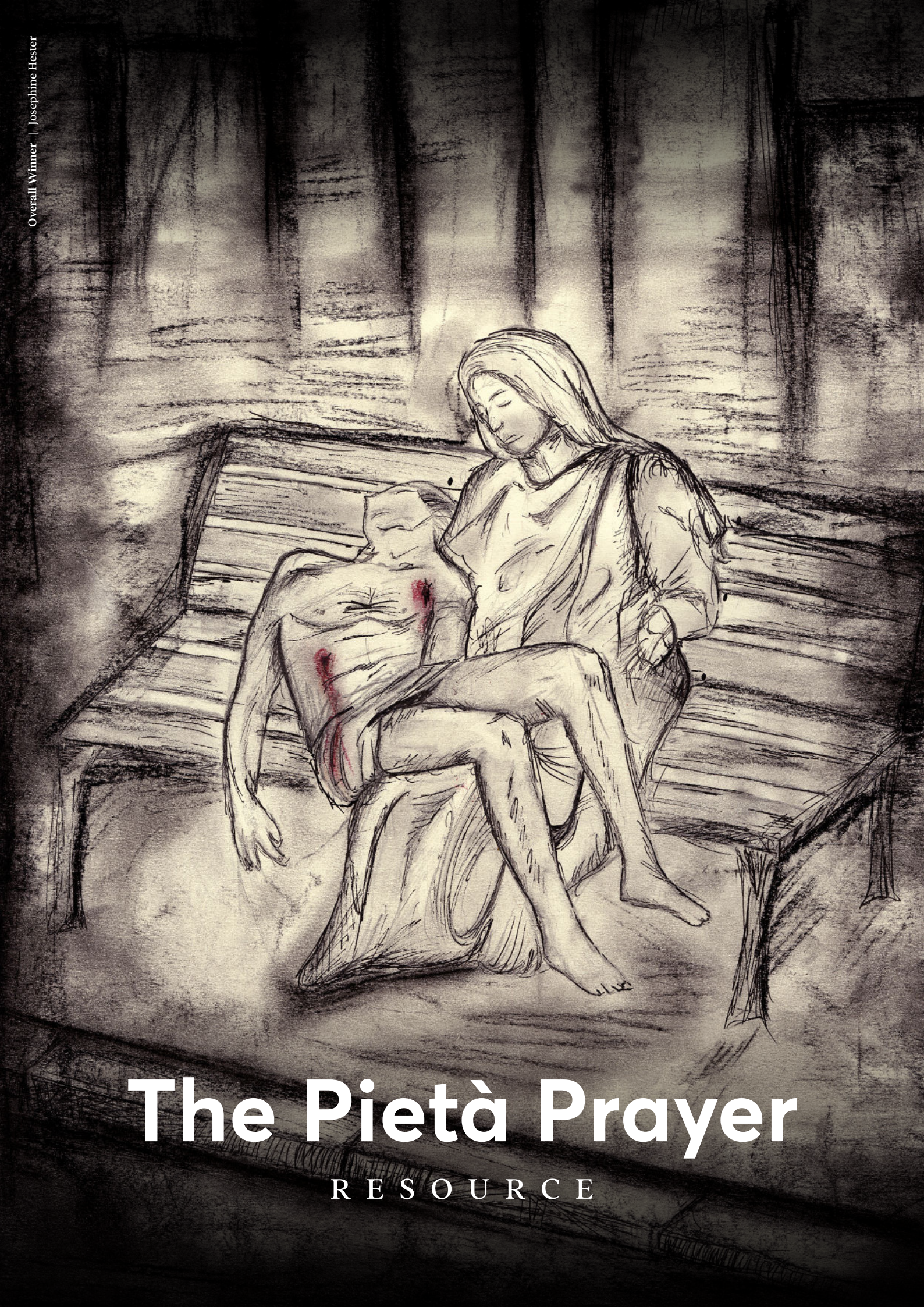




The Pietà Prayer

RESOURCE



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'Propers' are liturgical text that enable variation from seasonal liturgy, for the special observance or festival. Propers allow clergy to make appropriate adjustments the service without requiring the creation of a bespoke order of service.

The Pietà Prayer Resource

1. Introduction to the Pietà Prayer Resource

The Pietà Prayer Resource has been developed to provide pastorally appropriate liturgical resources for schools and churches, chaplains, and parish-based clergy.

Incidences of serious youth violence within a local community or school are a traumatic introduction to the reality and finality of death. This can be deeply destabilising to a child or young person's sense of general and personal safety, confidence and well-being.

The Pietà Prayer Resource offers clergy and school leaders an opportunity to acknowledge the wide range of complex emotions and surface some the unspoken conclusions that, if left unaddressed, can come to negatively impact, a young person's worldview, wellbeing and faith.

The resource is designed to help leaders, articulate the Christian faith with clarity, whilst holding space for the anxiety, doubt, and uncertainty, that accompanies our human desire for eternity and natural fear of death. The liturgies deliberately bring community safety to the forefront of our minds and prayers, so that churches and school communities can reflect and process powerful feelings of grief, loss, anger and guilt. They create opportunities for corporate prayer and dialogue where the trauma of extra-familial harm and violence, and loss of a young life, can be brought before God.

The resource can be used to offer a service of Anglican or ecumenical worship in a range of circumstances. This might be a standalone service in a church or hospital chapel, or as part of a series of services across a group of churches within a parish or deanery. Similarly, the resource could be used in a school or across a group of educational settings that wish to focus on the issue as an annual service. The resource can be drawn upon to inform a funeral, memorial or civic service.

This resource will raise questions about suffering that need to be sensitively explored. For further reflection, reading and resource on this year is also an accompanying short paper: **"Pietà Prayer: Practical, Pastoral and Theological Considerations."** which will be available from the Compassionate Communities website as a downloadable companion to the Pietà Prayer Resource.

The Pietà resource has been created and curated by the Reverend Natasha Beckles, as part of her work for the Compassionate Communities team, for parishes, schools and chaplaincies within the Dioceses of London and Southwark. However, it is our hope that these resources will be used as widely as is helpful across the Church and within schools.

July 2023

The Pietà Prayer Resource

2. Service of the Word Liturgy

Prayer of Preparation

*Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the burdens and imaginations of our hearts,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily we magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Gathering

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All **And also with you.**

Invitation to Confession

On this day we gather to contemplate the tragic loss of young and innocent lives.
Let us stand before our just and holy God,
remembering the violence and injustice of our world,
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Prayer of Penitence

All **Most merciful God**
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been
help us mend what we are
and direct what we shall be
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Kyrie Confession

You are the God of the weak and the vulnerable.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You judge those who exploit and abuse those who cannot protect themselves.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You wipe away the tears of the broken-hearted.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
†pardon and deliver you from all your sins
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

OR

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and †absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you; we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Collect

Heavenly Father,
 By the suffering of your Son, and for the sake of all children and young people,
 who face increased risk of harm because of their circumstances, individual need, or social exclusion;
 vanquish the evil powers and principalities that exploit these little ones for profit and power.
 Establish your rule of justice and peace,
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 One God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

Refer to 'Annotated Lectionary & Themed Bible Readings' on p42 of this resource for suggested readings.

Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.

A psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

At the end of each reading the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Never despise these young ones;
 their guardian angels in heaven look continuously
 on the face of my heavenly Father.

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you!

All **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St _____.

All **Glory to you O Lord.**

After the reading of The Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

Homily, Sermon or Talk**The Creed**

All **We believe in one God,
 The Father, the Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth,
 Of all that is seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
Eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
Begotten not made,
Of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
Was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
And was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
One the third day he rose again,
In accordance with the scriptures;
He is ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the †resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Intercession

Refer to 'Laity Prayers' on p44 for pre-written prayers by professionals, community members and relatives of those affected by Serious Youth Violence.

Prayers of intercession or open prayer.

The prayers may end with:

Merciful Father,

All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

God who gives life to the dead and comfort to the desolate,
Sustain you, keep you and console you,
And the blessing of God almighty,
†the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.



The Pietà Prayer Resource

3. Pietà Prayer: Propers

Invitation to Confession

As the Blessed Virgin Mary's heart was pierced by the death of her son Jesus Christ,
so, we are pierced by the hard-hearted violence of our communities, city and world.
Let us confess our sins to our merciful God who stoops down to hear us.²

Kyrie Confession

Lord Jesus, you are the King of Kings and the Prince of Peace.³
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Son of God and Son of Mary.⁴
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you wept for your friend Lazarus and comforted Mary and Martha.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Merciful Father,
Whose only begotten Son was betrayed and deserted by his disciples,
Whose Son's death was orchestrated by teachers of the law,
Whose Son's blood Pontius Pilate washed from his hands,⁵
By Christ's wounds, soften our hearts,
By Christ's passion, frustrate all evil designs,⁶
and establish your reign of justice and peace,
Through the same Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Refer to 'Annotated Lectionary & Themed Bible Readings' on p42 of this resource for suggested readings.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

'I am the resurrection and the life', says the Lord.

'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die'.⁷

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St _____.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

²Psalm 116:1-2

³Pg 52 Festivals: Echoes 'The Annunciation of Our Lord'.

⁴Pg 52 Festivals: Drawn 'The Annunciation of Our Lord'.

⁵Pg 128 Festivals: Echoes 'Holy Innocents' focusing on Pontus Pilate rather than Herod.

⁶Pg 128 Festivals: Drawn from 'Holy Innocents'.

⁷John 11:25-26

Once the Gospel has been proclaimed, the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Intercession

Prayers of intercession or open prayer.

Refer to 'Laity Prayers' on p44 for pre-written prayers by professionals, community members and relatives of those affected by Serious Youth Violence.

The prayers may end with:

Merciful Father

All **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Introduction to the Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers:

They shall be called children of God.

We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.⁸

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

OR

'I will comfort you', says the Lord, 'as a mother comforts her child, and you shall be comforted'.⁹

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another as sign of God's peace.

Prayer at the Preparation Table

Pour upon the poverty of our love,

And the weakness of our praise,

The transforming fire of your presence.

Preface

And now we give you thanks,

For the witness of the young man born blind and healed for the glory of God,¹⁰

Yet rejected from the temple, for sharing his testimony about Jesus Christ.

But Christ having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end;

and on the night before he suffered,

sitting at the table with his disciples,

he instituted these holy mysteries,

that we, redeemed by his death,

and restored to life by his resurrection,

might be partakers of his divine life.

Saying:

All **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

⁸Pg 49 Festivals: Drawn from 'Joseph of Nazareth'

⁹Pg 130 Festivals: Drawn from 'Holy Innocents'

¹⁰Pg 65 Festivals: Drawn from 'Corpus Christi' & John 9:1-34

OR

And now we give you thanks,
 For the witness of Jairus' daughter who woke from death at Christ's call,¹¹
 despite the unbelief of those around who came to mourn her,
 But Christ having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end;
 and on the night before he suffered,
 sitting at the table with his disciples,
 he instituted these holy mysteries,
 that we, redeemed by his death
 and restored to life by his resurrection,
 might be partakers of his divine life.
 Saying:

All **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

OR

And now we give you thanks,
 Because when his hour had come,
 In his great love he gave this supper to his disciples,
 That we might proclaim his death,
 And feast with him in his kingdom
 Saying:

All **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

Extended Preface¹²

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
 Mighty Creator, ever-living God,
 Thorough Jesus Christ our Lord.
 In love for our fallen human race,
 You sent your Son into the world to lighten our darkness.
 In his life,
 He rejoiced in the innocent faith of children;
 He revealed the steadfast witness of a young man born blind yet healed;
 and called Jairus' daughter back to the world of life.
 In his death,
 He carried in his body the violence and cruelty of this world;
 In his resurrection,
 He brought life and salvation to his people;
 And so began the new creation.
 As our ascended and merciful High Priest
 he hears our cries and knows our grief:
 and will come as universal Lord to whom all must give account.

¹¹Pg 65 Festivals: Drawn from 'Corpus Christi' & Mark 5:35-43

¹²Pg 131 Festivals: Drawn from 'Holy Innocents'

Therefore, with all the angels and archangels of heaven
We lift our voice to proclaim the glory of your name,
And sing our joyful hymn of praise:

All **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

Post Communion¹³

Lord Jesus Christ,
In your humility you have stooped down to share our human life
in the defenceless faith of infancy, childhood and youth:
may we who have received these gifts of your passion
remember the witness of all children and young people
who teach us how to enter your kingdom
trusting your sacrifice made once upon the cross;
For you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Blessing¹⁴

God who gives sight to the blind, life to the dead and comfort to the desolate,
Sustain you, keep you and console you,
And the blessing of God almighty,
†The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Dismissal¹⁵

Neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

¹³Pg 131 Festivals: Drawn from 'Holy Innocents'

¹⁴Pg 131 Festivals: Drawn from 'Holy Innocents'

¹⁵Pg 193 Festivals: Drawn from 'All Souls' Day'



The Pietà Prayer Resource

4. Service of Holy Communion: Liturgy 1

A Prayer of Preparation

*Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the burdens and imaginations of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily we magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Entrance Hymn, Song of Worship or Instrumental**The Gathering**

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

All **And also, with you**

Invitation to Confession

On this day we gather to contemplate the tragic loss of young and innocent lives.
Let us stand before our just and holy God,
remembering the violence and injustice of our world,
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Prayer of Penitence

All **Most merciful God**
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us mend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

Kyrie Confession

You are the God of the weak and the vulnerable.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You judge those who exploit and abuse those who cannot protect themselves.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You wipe away the tears of the broken-hearted.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
†pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

OR

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and †absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you; we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect

Heavenly Father,
 By the suffering of your Son, and for the sake of all children and young people who face increased risk of harm because of their circumstances, individual need, or social exclusion.
 Forever frustrate such evil powers and principalities that exploit these little ones for profit and power:
 Establish your reign of justice and peace through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 One God, now and forever.
All Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Refer to '*Annotated Lectionary & Themed Bible Readings*' on **p42** of this resource for suggested readings.
Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.
A psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

At the end of each reading the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
 Never despise these young ones;
 their guardian angels in heaven look continuously,
 on the face of my heavenly Father.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you!

All And also, with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St _____.

All Glory to you O Lord.

Once the Gospel has been proclaimed, the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Homily, Sermon or Talk**The Creed**

**All We believe in one God,
 The Father, the Almighty
 Maker of heaven and earth,
 Of all that is seen and unseen,**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 The only Son of God,
 Eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,**

true God from true God,
 Begotten not made,
 Of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
 Was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
 And was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 He suffered death and was buried.
 One the third day he rose again,
 In accordance with the scriptures;
 He is ascended into heaven
 And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
 The Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son
 is worshipped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the †resurrection of the dead,
 And the life of the world to come.
 Amen.

Intercession

Prayers of intercession or open prayer.

Refer to 'Laity Prayers' on p44 for pre-written prayers by professionals, community members and relatives of those affected by Serious Youth Violence.

The prayers may end with:

Merciful Father,

All **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Liturgy Of the Sacrament

The Peace

I will comfort you, as a mother comforts her child, and you shall be comforted. (Isaiah 66:13)

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also, with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Preparation of the Table

Pour upon the poverty of our love,
And the weakness of our praise,
The transforming fire of your presence.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Preface

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
Mighty creator, ever-living God,
Thorough Jesus Christ our Lord.
In love for our fallen human race,
You sent your Son into the world to lighten our darkness.
In his life,
He rejoiced in the innocent faith of children;
He revealed the steadfast witness of a young man born-blind yet healed;
and called Jairus' daughter back to the world of life.
In his death,
He carried in his body the violence and cruelty of this world;
In his resurrection,
He brought life and salvation to his people;
And so began the new creation.
As our ascended and merciful high priest
he hears our cries and knows our grief:
and will come as universal Lord to whom all must give account.
Therefore, with all the angels and archangels of heaven
We lift our voice to proclaim the glory of your name.
And sing our joyful hymn of praise:

All **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**
 God of power and might,
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
 Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the †body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU;
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

In the same way, after supper
He took the cup and gave you thanks;
He gave it to them saying:
*DRINK THIS ALL OF YOU;
THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW COVENANT,
WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.*

Great is the mystery of faith.

All **Christ has died:**
 Christ is risen:
 Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
as we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup,
and we thank you for counting us worthy,
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon all your people,
and gather into one in your kingdom,
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Blessed Virgin Mary, St. ____ and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to call God our Father and so we have the courage to say:

All **Our Father in heaven,**
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins,
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 lead us not into temptation.
 but deliver us from evil.
 for the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours
 now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
In your humility you have stooped to share our human life
in the defenceless faith of infancy, childhood and youth:
may we who have received these gifts of your passion
remember the witness of all children and young people
to the purity of your sacrifice made once upon the cross;
For you are alive and reign, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God,
We thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit,
To live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Blessing & Dismissal

God who gives life to the dead and comfort to the desolate,
sustain you, keep you and console you,
and the blessing of God almighty,
†The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Our eucharist is ended.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

A Hymn or Song of Worship

Post Procession Prayer

The Lord be with you!
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace...
And rise in glory.



Runner up | Amelia Hepworth Hurst

If the Sacrifice was already made, then for what reason do we insist
on Sacrificing others, our brethren,
the innocent.



The Pietà Prayer Resource

5. Service of Holy Communion: Liturgy 2

The Gathering**Opening verses*****Hymn or Song of Worship***

Jesus said, "Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

OR

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)

OR

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Corinthians 3:17)

An opening greeting is said

We meet in the presence of God,
The Comforter of our sorrows,
The Healer of our suffering,
The Spirit of Grace.

All **Amen.**

OR

We meet in the presence of God,
The Advocate of Liberation,
The Cross of Hope,
The Spirit of Justice.

All **Amen.**

OR

We meet in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.

All **and also with you.**

OR

The Lord be with you.

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Prayer of Preparation

This prayer may be said

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

One of these invitations to confessions may be used.

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins in our reconciling with God. Trusting in the mercy and grace of God, let us make our confession.

OR

The light of the Lord will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.¹⁶

OR

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

(John 13:34)

Therefore, in the love of Christ let us confess our sins
and the violence within our city.

OR

The sin of youth violence harms the whole creation,
which desires with eager longing for God's redemption.
We come to you in sorrow for this sin and confess our harmful disregard.

Confession

All God of compassion and love,
We lament over the sin of violence within our city:
We remember with sorrow the lives of our young people we have lost.
Where communities are broken, renew hearts and minds to learn to live in union with one another.
Forgive us when we do not speak out against violence.
Comfort us where lives are lost.
Heal us so that we may seek to end violence amongst our youth.

¹⁶New Patterns for Worship

OR

God of Compassion,
 We lament over the sin of violence within our city,
 We remember with sorrow the lives of our young people we have lost recently.
 Where communities are broken,
 renew hearts and minds to learn to live in union with each other
 Forgive us when we do not speak out against violence.
 Comfort us where lives are lost.
 Heal us so that we may seek to end violence amongst our youth.

All **Amen.**

Absolution***The president says***

The Lord enrich you with grace,
 and nourish you in blessings;
 the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
 the Lord accept your prayers,
 and †absolve you from your offences,
 for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

OR***The president says***

May the God of all mercy,
 Heal and strengthen you in love,
 Build and raise you up to speak boldly for our young people,
 †Restore you in his image,
 And bring you to the fellowship of God's table with all the saints and ancestors forever.

All **Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

This is used if confession and absolution is said before.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

This is used if there is no confession and absolution said before.

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the harming of God's youth.

We are sorry for the times that violence and harm are more powerful than our love for one another.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

All **forgive us and help us.**

We give thanks for the abundance of youth and our future in them,
but sometimes we forget that they have been entrusted to us, as your children.
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

All **forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people, a community.
but mistreat one another and neglect to speak up against harm.
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

All **forgive us and help us.**

The God of comfort and grace have mercy on you,
Grant you †pardon and forgiveness of all your sins,
Strengthen you to do God's will in society;
And bring you with all the saints to everlasting life.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Mother of grace,
You have made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus Christ.
Grant us your comfort and healing love,
Replacing violence with love, fear with courage:
By your Spirit inspire and empower our youth with hope for the future.
May we learn to join in your great work of reconciliation and peace to end violence in our city.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you now and forever.

All **Amen.**

OR

Let us pray.

Liberating God,
Whose will is always for your people to live in love:
Inspire our young people with a spirit of justice and hope.
We pray that by your help we may learn to preserve all life.
Help us to respect and defend our young people.
Through Jesus Christ by whom we were made free,
Who lives and reigns with you now and forever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Refer to '*Annotated Lectionary & Themed Bible Readings*' on **p42** of this resource for suggested readings.

Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St _____.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Once the Gospel has been proclaimed, the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

On Sundays and Principal Holy Days an authorised translation of the Nicene Creed is used, or on occasion the Apostles' Creed or an authorised Affirmation of Faith may be used.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

OR

Let us declare our faith in God.

All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us,
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.¹⁷

Prayers of Intercession

Prayers of intercession or open prayer.

Refer to 'Laity Prayers' on p44 for pre-written prayers by professionals, community members and relatives of those affected by Serious Youth Violence.

The prayers may end with:

Merciful Father

All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The president may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence, and then says

Introductions to the peace

God is love.

Those who live in love, live in God;

And God lives in them.

OR

We are all one in Christ Jesus,
United with one body by the cross,
Together, may we agree to keep our young people safe.

OR

¹⁷cf Ephesians 3

God is Justice and Truth.

As we cry for justice, we long for peace.

Christ comes amongst us whispering, "Peace be with you" and our hearts settle in Him.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All and also with you.

These words may be added

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

A hymn may be sung.

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

The table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.

One or more of the prayers at the preparation of the table may be said.

Accept, we pray O Lord.

these gifts of bread and wine which we bring to You as the token of our love and unity;

Through them may we participate in Your work of non-violence,

love for another and justice in Your kingdom;

for the glory of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen.

OR

At the offering of the Bread

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

Through Your goodness we have this bread to offer which the earth has given, and human hands have made.

It will become for us the Bread of Life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of the Wine

Blessed are You Lord God of all creation.

Through Your goodness we have this wine to offer fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become our spiritual drink.

All Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

The president says

The Lord be with you!

All and also with you.

OR

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond.

Extended preface

We give you thanks and praise,
Creator and Liberating God,
Through Jesus Christ your Son, our loving Saviour.
You made us in Your image and imparted to us the desire to care for each other.
For at this time, you lead us to lament the injustice of violent crime that harms Your humanity.
In the mystery of the Word made flesh,
Your light reveals the divine image within us.
In the power of the life-giving cross
We proclaim your new commandment to love one another.
So now, our hearts outpour with compassion and care for the youth in our society.
Through prayer and the power of your Holy Spirit;
May we learn to participate in seeking justice, love and peace in your kingdom.
So, lifting our hopes with angels and archangels,
we proclaim your glory forever praising you and singing:

OR

Short Preface

And now we give you thanks for your presence with us.
As we lament the loss of life amongst our nation's youth to serious violence:
make us to be united in Christ by your Spirit,
gathered and scattered, yet one body,
that we may join with angels and archangels to sing your praise;

OR

Short Preface

For your loving mercies we give you thanks and praise.

As we proclaim your Gospel of love through your Son, Jesus Christ;

Gather us together and help us in the wisdom of your Holy Spirit,

to stand to fight the injustice of serious youth violence.

So that with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
 God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

The president recalls the Last Supper, (refer to Eucharist prayer B, C & E). Thereafter one of these four acclamations may be used.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died:
 Christ is risen:
 Christ will come again.

OR

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All Dying you destroyed our death,
 rising you restored our life:
 Lord Jesus, come in glory.

OR

Christ is the bread of life:

All When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
 we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
 until you come in glory.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

In the language closest to our hearts, Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken.

All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president says one of these invitations to communion.

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

OR

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father and Mother of grace.

Post-Communion Prayer

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God,
We are thankful that in this Eucharistic feast,
You give us the strength to advocate for our youth that they may be kept safe from harm.
Give us grace to have confidence to imitate the love of Christ in our society,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

OR

Let us pray.

God of Life,
You have renewed us with the living bread of hope.
Comfort us in our sorrow for the youth that we have lost,
Strengthen our love that we may learn to live together in peace,
Defend us from all adversities and increase our hope;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

OR

Let us pray.

God of Life,
Kindle in us the fire of justice,
That we may end the sin of youth violence,
So that when Christ comes again;
We may shine as lights in his love,
who is alive and reigns with you now and forever.

All Amen.

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Blessing & Dismissal

A hymn or song of worship may be sung before the blessing or after the dismissal.

May the God of compassion and care,
Comfort you in your sorrow,
Give voice to your tears as you lament;
And grant you renewed peace in Christ's love.

OR

May the God of Liberation,
Give you life,
Fill you with his love,
And strengthen you to participate in his justice:
So that by being daily renewed in the peace of Jesus Christ,
we might see an end to youth violence in our time.

OR

The God of all peace,
Send you forth into the world,
with the courage to advocate for peace,
to honour everyone,
and live in harmony as you follow Christ.

The president says

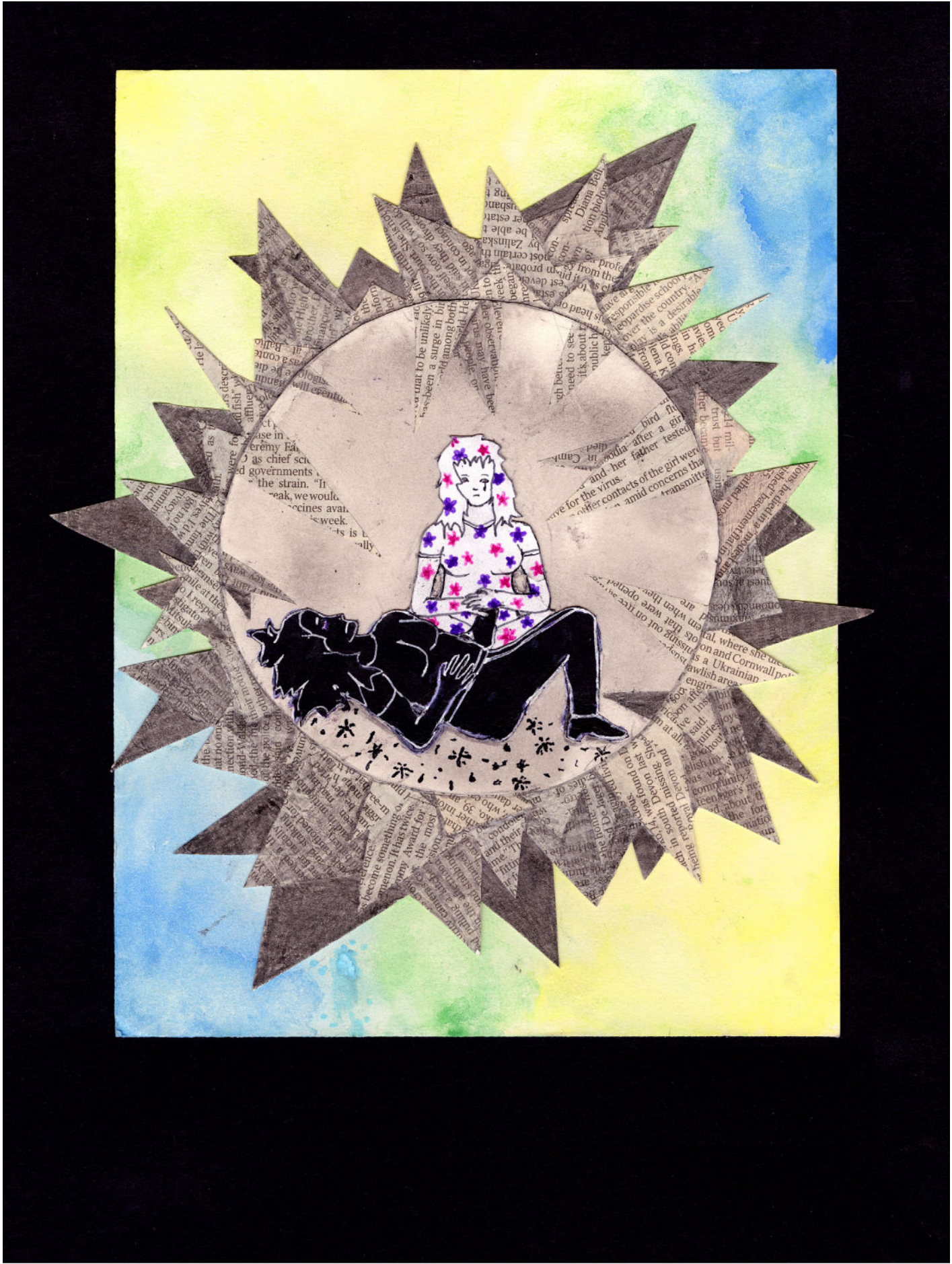
and the blessing of God almighty,
†the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.



Runner up | Esther Mistry

The Pietà Prayer Resource

6. Annotated Lectionary & Themed Bible Readings

Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel	
Gen 4 <i>Cain kills Abel</i> <i>Unrepentance and the scarring of human psychology.</i>	Psalm 23 <i>The Lord is my shepherd;</i> <i>Even though I walk...</i>	James 3:1-12 <i>Tame the tongue!</i>	Luke 15:11-32: <i>The Prodigal Son.</i>	John 11:11-44 <i>Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.</i>
		James 3:13-18 <i>Two kinds of wisdom</i> <i>Envy & Selfish ambition.</i>	Luke 10:25-37: <i>The Good Samaritan.</i>	
Genesis 4:23-24 <i>Lamech's Violent & Unequal world;</i> <i>Polygamy & Retribution.</i>	Psalm 27 <i>The Lord is my light</i> <i>Wait on the Lord, and be of good courage.</i>	James 4:1-10 <i>What causes the quarrels and fights?</i> <i>Submit yourselves to God.</i>	Matt 18:21-22 <i>Peter, Jesus and Seventy-seven times forgiveness.</i>	John 21:1-25 or 15-23 <i>Jesus reinstates Peter.</i> <i>"Do you love me? Feed my sheep".</i>
Proverbs 4 <i>Get wisdom at all costs!</i>				
Gen 37:12-36 <i>Joseph sold into slavery.</i>	Psalm 22 – <i>David's prophetic psalm: Jesus on the Cross.</i>	James 4:11-12 or 17 <i>Don't slander one another...</i> <i>Who are you to judge?</i> <i>Boasting about tomorrow.</i>	Matt 14:1-12 or Mark 6:14-29 <i>Death of John the Baptist:</i> <i>A child exploited;</i> <i>A cousin imprisoned & killed for righteousness.</i>	John 10:1-18 <i>"I am the Good Shepherd".</i>
Joshua 2 <i>Rahab: An exploited woman welcomed.</i>	Psalm 16 <i>God my Refuge</i> <i>The boundary lines have fallen in a pleasant place.</i>	James 2:1-13 <i>Mercy triumphs over judgement.</i>	John 9 <i>Young Blind Man in the Synagogue.</i> <i>Spiritual Blindness & Exclusion for truth telling.</i>	Mark 5:21- 43 or Luke 8:40-56 <i>The woman with an issue of blood & the raising of Jairus' daughter.</i>

The lectionary combinations may be adjusted to suit the pastoral needs of the congregation.

Lament	To live in love for one another	Justice and hope for our young people
Isaiah 61:1-3: <i>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me".</i>	Genesis 1: 26-8: <i>Made in the image of God.</i>	Micah 6:8 <i>Justice, mercy and humility.</i>
Isaiah 53:1-10: <i>Suffering servant.</i>	John 15: <i>"I am the vine".</i>	Proverbs 1, 3 or 4: <i>Get wisdom.</i>
Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33: <i>"The steadfast love of the Lord".</i>	1 Corinthians 11:17-34: <i>Correcting an abuse of the Lord's Supper.</i>	Luke 1: 46-56: <i>The Magnificat.</i>
Psalm 27: <i>"The Lord is my light".</i>	1 John 4:16-18: <i>God is love; Perfect love drives out fear.</i>	Luke 10: 25-37: <i>The Good Samaritan.</i>
Psalm 38: <i>David's confession.</i>		1 Peter 1: 3-9: <i>Praise to God for a living hope.</i>
Psalm 130: <i>"Out of the depths I cry to you".</i>		Hebrews 5: 1-11: <i>Every high priest is selected from among the people.</i>
John 20:19-23: <i>"Peace be with you".</i>		
Revelation 22:12-14: <i>"I am the Alpha and the Omega".</i>		
Luke 2:23-35: <i>Jesus presented at the temple.</i>		
John 14:1-4: <i>"My Father's house has many rooms".</i>		
John 11:17-27: <i>"I am the resurrection and the life".</i>		

The Pietà Prayer Resource

7. Laity Prayers

A Parent's Prayer

Loving God,
We give you thanks for the love and mercy you give to us in our lives.

We pray Lord for those of us born into poverty, we pray that you give us the strength to overcome the social and economic barriers we might face and to use the gifts that you have bestowed on us in order to help humanity.

We pray Lord, for all of those who are living in violent, unsafe and harmful conditions.
Lord, we particularly ask for your hand of protection, over these young ones.

Give us the strength to not be influenced by the bad but look for and be inspired by the good.
Give us the strength to provide a righteous example for others in our communities to follow.

We know Lord there are times when, like Jonah, we all try to turn away from your call,
to seek human justice.
Like Jonah we know there may be times where we feel we are trapped in the belly of a fish because we have ignored your call.
Thank you, Lord, that your word says: 'This too will pass'.
We will overcome our fears, our apprehension and take joy in answering your call and carrying out your will.
Give us the wisdom, strength and courage to do this, day by day.

Lord, we pray for the families of victims who have died.
We pray that you give them the strength to continue in their own spiritual journeys.
We ask that you touch the hearts of those who struggle with overwhelming feelings of vengeance, fear, anger or despair.

We ask that you, fill our hearts with renewed hope, faith and love in you.
We ask that you strengthen us, through the memory of our loved ones, so we might inspire ourselves and others to answer your call and do your will, on this issue.

We pray that we might know your constant presence in our hearts, so that the loving kindness of the Lord continues to overflow in and through our families and relationships.

Lord, give comfort to all the relatives and close friends - in the knowledge that though they may not see their loved ones again in this life; we will, at last see each other, in the glory of your kingdom.

We pray for all those who feel that they have lost their faith or live joylessly:
We pray that they are able to find these precious things again, in you.
And finally, we pray for those souls who have died recently and whose anniversary falls at this time. We trust that these souls are resting in your perfect peace.

Amen.

A Youth Worker's Prayer

Lord Jesus,
you who know the struggles and hardships that young people face in this world.
We lift up to you all those who are disadvantaged, marginalised, traumatised or without hope,
We ask for your mercy and compassion,
to shine upon these young souls,
to grant them strength, courage, and resilience
in the face of adversity.

We pray that you will inspire us all,
to work towards creating a more just and equitable world,
where every young person has access to education,
learning opportunities, and resources to thrive.

We pray for your Church both locally and nationally.
We ask that the church would become a place where every child, every young person experiences welcome,
belonging and safety.
'A stronghold in times of trouble.'
(1:7 Nahum)

We ask for your guidance and blessings,
as we strive to serve and support these young people,
and we entrust them to your loving care,
now and forever.

Amen.

A Community Member's Prayer

Merciful Father,

We thank you for placing most of us into safe havens that we call 'homes.'
We thank you for our parents, carers and guardians who like Mary and Joseph cared for Our Lord Jesus Christ when he was on his earthly journey.
Those who ensured we were nourished and clothed and took us by the hand into our schools.
We pray earnestly for those youths who, for whatever reason, have not known this kind of love and care.
We remember that Jeremiah 1:5 says: 'Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew you.'
Teach us that whatever our circumstances, God always sees, knows and loves us.

Loving Lord,

As we start to forge relationships in school where we meet with children from other cultural and economic backgrounds, with different languages and abilities.
Grant us, as parents and teachers, the humility to accept and embrace these 'little ones'.
Help us to demonstrate the ability to listen and learn about the diversity you planted in each one of us, and how our diversity helps to form us in the gift of compassion and love for others.

Gracious Lord,
 For gifting us with a prayer that we can learn to say daily:
 Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
 For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

(Matthew 6:9-13)

In the Community & Wider World

God of Compassion,
 As our children grow up and move out into our wider communities,
 Surround our young people with safe spaces, safe people and safe relationships.
 Teach us that we are all connected, and we need each other.
 Help us to remember that we are to be a bridge, between the aged and the very young; each of us an irreplaceable link in the chain of our shared humanity.
 As our young people prepare to step out of the safety of the home, help us as older adults in the community, to set healthy boundaries that are clear, consistent and just so that all young people feel cared and are able to experience safety and peace, as they find their place in the world.

God of Justice,
 Open our eyes and give us courage to stand for your love and justice.
 Teach us to challenge exploitation, abuse and discrimination.
 We pray now for teachers, social workers, youth workers, parish priests, doctors and nurses, police, shop keepers, pub landlords, street cleaners, traffic wardens and all who are caretakers for the community, that they will see our young people as God's inheritance and execute their duties with compassion, wisdom and diligence that builds trust and interrupts harm.

God of Wisdom,
 We pray for the spaces and relationships that shape young lives.
 We ask that the gifts and energies of all our young people will be welcomed and allowed to strengthen, bring joy and blessing the whole community.
 Apostle Paul says in 1st Timothy 4:12:
'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.'
 In years to come, as the community starts to depend on its young people, King of Kings make the burden light and create a niche for our youth so they can flourish and excel, as the people you intended them to be.

Loving Lord,
 The psalmist says in Psalm 119:105 that the word of the Lord will be,
'a light unto my feet, and a light unto your path'.
 We pray particularly for those young people whose needs, experience and struggles mean that they need to 'test the boundaries' at every opportunity.
 We particularly pray those who feel unseen, misunderstood or labelled whether at home, school or in the wider community.
 We ask that you meet these young people at their deepest point of need.

Be their sustenance and their strength.
Strengthen them emotionally and spiritually.
Remind them that they are made in your image and loved unconditionally by you.
Give them your peace.
Please visit and give relief to those young people facing homeless or housing insecurity.
Those who are driven out of their homes by domestic violence, coercion and bullying or other forms of oppression whether at home, in school or in the streets.
Lord, open our eyes to appreciate and look beyond the outward appearance of those we meet so that we might be able to stretch forth a hand of friendship, fellowship and love that draws our young people to Christ.

In the Church

Father God,
we pray you give us the unction to function in your word,
for we know that Proverbs 30:5 says:
'Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him'

Lord Jesus,
Give our young people the leading to seek you instinctively as flowers turn their faces to the rising sun daily.
Let them see your church as a place of prayer where they are able to find peace and belonging as they worship in fellowship with one another.
Help them to acknowledge your Lordship and recognise the leading of the Holy Spirit so they might come to know the will of God the Father, for their precious lives.
Ecclesiastics 12:1 says:
'Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them."'

Holy Spirit,
Help our young people to develop exponentially in spiritual maturity and diligence despite the present weaknesses of the adults, churches and schools that shape their world.
We pray they might come to confidently know and deeply trust the underserved kindness, faithfulness and love of God, and lead us all to see your Kingdom Come in our churches and communities, for your glory.

Formal Corporate Intercession

In peace let us pray to the God of love:
Righteous God,
Your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ dwelt among us,
And shared our grief and our pain.
We pray for the children and young people of our world,
that they may grow up knowing love and security.
We recognise that our corporate greed and self-centredness creates lack, need and risk of harm for others in our own community and in other parts of the country and world.

Silence is kept.

OR

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for all children and young people who lack physical or psychological safety in their homes, schools or local communities.

We pray particularly for those who this day believe that there is no-one that they can turn to; no-one who can help or protect them and so they are seeking ways to protect themselves.

Loving God, give your church kind eyes, words, and wisdom that we might be regarded by these precious ones as people of justice, mercy and humility: worthy to be deemed trustworthy to those in need.

Silence is kept.

OR

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for all children and young people in our world who are being abused and dehumanised by experiences of adultification, profiling and criminalisation.

We pray for those who are harmed by exposure to verbal or online abuse and violence, leading to further criminal and sexual exploitation.

Silence is kept.

OR

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are corrupted by power and regard humans as objects and commodities to be used, trapped in debt bondage or caught up in county lines.

We pray for those who specifically target children to avoid detection because they are inexperienced, impulsive and are too often blamed rather than believed.

We pray for all the children and teenagers who are missing or have gone missing this week.

Silence is kept.

OR

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for parents, health care professionals, teachers, youth and social workers; all those who are called to care for children and young people.

We pray that they may be given grace to recognise and respond to the unique gifts and vulnerabilities of the children entrusted to their care.

Loving God, imbue them with the courageous confidence to continue to advocate, challenge and intervene on behalf of these precious ones.

We pray for an outpouring of the gift of supernatural wisdom, insight and revelation to see those children and young people who are at imminent and continual risk of harm.

Silence is kept.

OR

Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for parents who have suffered the death of a child in the community in violent circumstances.

We pray too for siblings, cousins and classmates who bear the loss of a friend and peer.

May these friends and relatives know God's comforting presence as they come to terms with their loss and grief.

May they all be assured that their beloved child, sibling and friend is now safely gathered up into the eternal arms of God.

Silence is kept.

OR

Lord in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

As we remember Christ's birth into poverty and persecution, and his death on the cross

As we ponder the grief experienced by his mother, Mary;

And the tragedy observed by his friends St John and Mary Magdalene at the foot of the cross,
help us to recommit ourselves to work for the safety and dignity of all children and young people within
our community,

as we entrust our city and our nation,

to you, the God of all justice, mercy and peace.

Merciful Father

All **Accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ
Amen.**



COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES

