

Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse 2025 First held in 2017, the Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of abuse is a prayer initiative of the IEC to be held across Ireland to pray for the recovery of all who have been impacted by abuse in our Church. All parishes and religious communities are encouraged to light a candle of atonement and to organise a service or moment of prayer on the first Friday of Lent. In 2025 this day will fall on the Friday 7th of March.

Intercessions for Mass

Celebrant: O God, have mercy on us and in your kindness hear our prayer.

- For parents: that they may help their children to grow up loved and cherished, in security, with a strong sense of their identity and worth. Lord in your mercy
- For children and young people: that they may develop a personal relationship with Jesus and become faithful disciples and workers in rebuilding and renewing the Church. Lord in your mercy
- For survivors and victims of abuse: that they may not lose hope but may experience liberation, healing and peace. Lord in your mercy
- For priests and religious: that they may be men and women devoted to the Lord and co-operate in working to ensure children and young people are safe and are able to participate in the life of the Church.
- For bishops and those in authority: that they may be attentive to the people and to the suffering of people. Lord in your mercy
- For the Church in Ireland: that by being faithful to the Gospel, observing the commandments and living like Christ, new ways of passing on to young people the beauty and richness of friendship with Christ may be found. Lord in your mercy
- For those who abused children and young people: that they may take responsibility for the sins and crimes they committed, acknowledge their guilt and humbly express their sorrow: may they atone personally for their sinful actions. Lord in your mercy
- For all the dead and in particular for survivors and victims of abuse who died: that they may experience the peace and happiness that they sought in this world. Lord in your mercy

Celebrant: O Lord, wash us from our guilt and cleanse us of our sin. In your mercy answer our prayer, through Christ our Lord. Amen

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:26-27

*When faced with great difficulty, we often can be at a total loss for words.
But the Spirit of God can express even our sighs to the heart of God.*

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness.
For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly,
the Spirit himself expresses our plea
in a way that could never be put into words,
and God who knows everything in our hearts
knows perfectly well what he means,
and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit
are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalms From Psalm 33

Response:> The Lord is close to the broken hearted

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble will hear and be glad. R:>

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. R:>

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. R:>

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia

Come to me all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest says the Lord

A reading from the Gospel according to John 10:11-18

Jesus said:

‘I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd

and the sheep do not belong to him,

abandons the sheep and runs away

as soon as he sees a wolf coming,

and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;

this is because he is only a hired man

and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.’

The Gospel of the Lord

