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August 3, 2014
18th Sunday Of The Year

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Listen, let your heart...; Com: As the deer; Rec: Lightened by the word

INTRODUCTION

In the Gospel, today, Jesus feeds the multitude from five loaves and two fish! If we wish to experience this miracle of multiplication in our own lives, we would first need to bring our own offering of 'five loaves and two fish' - an indication that we wish to be actively involved in Chrst's mission. Come let us be active participants in both mission and miracle. (We now stand as we welcome the celebrant and sing the entrance hymn...)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Our Father, in Heaven, you give us our daily bread and relieve our hunger. May we be always ready to share from this bounty so that no one is left in need.

Our response is: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

1. For the Pope, the bishops and all the leaders of our Church: grant them wisdom and strength to continue to speak out for the poorest members of our human family; we pray to the Lord...
2. For our political leaders: grant them the courage and the will to ensure that all people have what they need to survive; we pray to the Lord...
3. For the community gathered here: that we may respond to hunger in our neighbourhoods and grow in generosity to all those in need; we pray to the Lord...
4. For those in social services: that they may find joy in sacrificing personal gain for the service of others; we pray to the Lord...
5. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Giving and forgiving God, your love gives us the courage to fight against poverty and injustice. May our celebration of this Eucharist give us strength to work for the good of all. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

August 10, 2014
Vianney Sunday

THEME

PRIESTS – Living in the fullness of the Eucharist in Union with Christ

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Follow me, Follow me; Com: Lord make me like you;

Rec: You are a chosen generation

INTRODUCTION

We welcome you to this Eucharist celebrating Vianney Sunday. St. John Vianney was a good and holy priest who by his prayer and good works transformed an entire parish for the better. We thank God for the gift of our priests, *(name the priests of the parish / institution)* who serve us in different ways and bring us closer to God. Every Eucharist celebrated by the priest is the memorial of the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus and it gives us hope in our own moments of pain and struggle. With gratitude in our hearts let us stand and welcome the celebrant.

(For Homily Hints please visit www.archdioceseofbombay.org/resources)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Heavenly Father, you have called priests to serve your people in the name of your son Jesus, the High Priest. As we thank you for their sacrifices and their work, we pray that you may always protect them from harm and evil and continue to inspire them in their ministries. As we lift them upto you...

Our response is: Gracious Lord, hear our prayer

1. That like St. John Vianney, Pope Francis, the Bishops, Priests and Religious all over the world may bring people closer to God through their prayer and celebration of the Eucharist; we pray to the Lord...

2. That Frs. *(name the priests of the parish)* may always draw nourishment from the Eucharist as they serve our community with zeal and enthusiasm; we pray to the Lord...

3. That like St. Paul, the Church may be blessed with vocations and priests who are always identified by their union with Christ and the Holy Spirit; we pray to the Lord....

4. That priests experiencing storms in their vocation, or those who are suffering ill-health or losing faith in their capabilities may rediscover the presence of Jesus, the High Priest, as they serve in his name; we pray to the Lord...

5. That priests who have died may enjoy eternal life and be blessed for the goodness they reflected in their ministries; we pray to the Lord....

6. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Lord, as we thank you for our priests and seek your blessings on them, we also appreciate all that they do for us, inspired by your son Jesus who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST JOHN VIANNEY

(Could be read after the final blessing & before the recessional hymn)

Dear St. John Mary Vianney, Cure of Ars, we revere in you the great model of sacerdotal life. We recall with admiration your detachment from the things of the world; your deep humility and acceptance of humiliations; your extraordinary spirit of mortification and penance; your fortitude in trials and against the assaults of the devil; your purity, union with God and love of the Eucharist; your unremitting zeal and untiring service of souls by day and by night, at the confessional and in the pulpit; your compassion for all those in want – the sick, the poor and the sinners; your rare power to draw people to God. True priest of the Most High, help our priests in Mumbai ever to keep striving towards the acquisition of these virtues, so that they can become shepherds after God's own heart. Amen.

+ Cardinal Ivan Dias

August 17, 2014
Justice Sunday

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Sing to the mountains; Com: Great indeed are your works O Lord
Rec: O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder...

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the celebration of the Eucharist on Justice Sunday. God created the universe so that we could all enjoy its blessings. Unfortunately, greed and indifference has destroyed these blessings and we are on the brink of an environmental disaster. Fortunately, there has been a movement towards environmental justice and we pray today that these efforts may bear fruit and we may be saved. God gave us charge over the environment as stewards and we have to collaborate for justice to prevail. We stand and welcome the celebrant.

(For Homily Hints please visit www.archdioceseofbombay.org/resources)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Just as the Canaanite woman pleaded with faith for the cure of her daughter, we place our intentions before God to help us heal the environment to which we belong.

Our response is: Hear Our Prayer O Lord

1. That Pope Francis, the Bishops and the leaders of the Church may consciously work towards a just environmental order where all the people of the world may enjoy the benefits of a clean and healthy environment; we pray to the Lord...
2. That the leaders of the world may always make environmental justice a priority in their national programmes and collaborate with all those who are making efforts to save the environment; we pray to the Lord...
3. That every Christian may pledge to work for programmes and initiatives that foster environmental justice that can benefit even the poorest of the nations of the world; we pray to the Lord...

4. That industries and manufacturers of products may foster initiatives to protect the environment and promote the well-being of those who suffer the effects of environmental injustice; we pray to the Lord...

5. That each one of us may take responsibility for the environment and make efforts to reduce, recycle, reuse so that we and generations to come may enjoy the blessings of the environment; we pray to the Lord...

6. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): God our Creator, we place our intentions in your hands and we pray that you may always give us the strength to work for Your greater glory. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

August 24, 2014

21st Sunday Of The Year

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Day of the Lord; Com: I now no longer live; Rec: To follow the Lord

INTRODUCTION

Today, we are reminded that the Church's mission is universal. The church is to be - 'servant of the world'. God's purposes are not frustrated by the frailty and infidelity of each one us or humanity. At today's Eucharist let us pray for grace that, like Peter, we too will understand our mission well and use our gifts to serve and build the Kingdom of God.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Dear brothers and sisters, trusting in the ever-loving goodness and kindness of our Heavenly Father, let us place our prayers and petitions before him.

Our response is: Lord hear our prayer.

1. For Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and deacons that they may fulfill their calling to be a servant leader; we pray to the Lord....
2. For all the leaders of the world and of our country that they may promote economic development that respects the dignity of all peoples; we pray to the Lord....
3. For all the baptized members of the church that they use their gifts to serve one another and help build the Kingdom of God; we pray to the Lord....
4. For the sick, homebound and those bedridden that you will be their strength in times of pain and suffering; we pray to the Lord....
5. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): God our loving Father, hear our prayers and petitions and help us to break ourselves for others as Jesus did, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

August 31, 2014

22nd Sunday Of The Year

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Come into His presence
Com: In Him we live and move
Rec: We are God's people

INTRODUCTION

In our daily lives, it is possible for us to lose focus because we give in to our selfish interests and our desires and these come in the way of us truly following God's will. At such times, we are challenged to renounce ourselves, and like Jesus carry our cross that inevitably forms part of life. The "carrying of the cross" seems foolish to human reason but with Christ's guidance it becomes the path to eternal life.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Dear brothers and sisters let us call upon God our Saviour in fervent prayer. Trusting in his infinite goodness and love, in humility let us place our prayers and petitions before the Lord.

Our response is: Lord hear our prayer.

1. For our Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and deacons that they will guide the members of the Body of Christ to choose the path that leads to fullness of life; we pray to the Lord...

2. For all the leaders of the world and our country that they will take policy decisions that lead to the equitable distribution of wealth and resources; we pray to the Lord...

3. For all members of the Body of Christ that the Gospel message transforms our lives; we pray to the Lord....

4. For all the homebound, sick and aged that you be their source of strength and joy in their time of suffering; we pray to the Lord....

5. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Heavenly Father, trusting in your goodness, we ask you to answer our prayers; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

September 7, 2014
23rd Sunday Of The Year

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: As we gather; Com: This is my commandment; Rec: Hand in hand with Christ

INTRODUCTION

Community life is never easy; living and working together will, at times, lead to disagreements or resentments. We may have to find the courage to speak up when problems arise and at times we may need to give and receive a little gentle correction. Love of neighbour is easier preached than practiced. We are invited to keep an open mind and listening heart, as today's Psalm advises, so that we may be able to discern the voice of God in the midst of our messy efforts to live and work together. In the Gospel, Jesus assures us that he is with us even in the smallest gathering "in my name", indicating his presence among us in every circumstance of our lives.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Living in community will never be easy. Let us pray for the grace to discern God's presence at the heart of our communities, encouraging and supporting us in our struggles to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For our Pope Francis, Bishops, for the Church and all who minister and on whom the Spirit pours out the gift of wisdom; we pray to the Lord...
2. For world leaders, standing in need of wisdom, prudence and a passion for justice; we pray to the Lord...
3. For the needy and suffering who reach out for God's healing strength, peace and joy; we pray to the Lord...
4. For us, God's people gathered here, on whom God pours out wisdom and love, that we may find their realisation in our hearts and lives; we pray to the Lord...
5. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): God, our Father, give us your wisdom to live in love and unity as your community, building your Kingdom here on earth. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

September 8, 2014

The Nativity Of the Blessed Virgin Mary And Day Of The Girl Child

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Beginning Today; Com: On this day of joy; Rec: Holy Virgin or any Marian hymn

INTRODUCTION

Today we celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Born into a Jewish society that did not value women, she was chosen to be the mother of our Saviour, showing us God's great plan for women. Our church in India celebrates this feast as the Day of the Girl Child inviting us to think, pray and work for a safer country for our girls.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): O God, our Father, we come to you today to place before you our prayers and petitions, and ask Mary, to intercede before you for us.

Our response is: Lord hear our Prayer.

1. For our Pope, our Bishops, clergy and religious, that on this Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary our church may draw strength and inspiration from her; we pray to the Lord....
2. That our new government takes a serious view of honour killings and caste based sexual violence; we pray to the Lord....
3. That those responsible for human trafficking are firmly dealt with by the law; we pray to the Lord....
4. That the unborn are not deprived of a chance of life and love; we pray to the Lord...
5. Let us bring to mind our personal needs, particularly the needs of the women in our parish; we pray to the Lord....

(Cel): Almighty God, you gave the Blessed Virgin Mary the privilege of being the mother of Jesus and crowned her with the glory of heaven. May the prayers we make to you through Mary, her Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit be fulfilled. Amen.

September 14, 2014
**Feast Of The
Triumph Of The Cross**

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Come in pilgrim
Com: Have thine own way
Rec: If you wish to be my disciple

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this Eucharist celebrating the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. The feast of the Triumph of the Cross marks two historical events: the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, in 320 under the temple of Venus in Jerusalem, and the dedication in 335 of the Basilica and Shrine built on Calvary by Constantine, which marks the site of the Crucifixion. But more importantly, the feast is a celebration and commemoration of God's greatest work: his salvific death on the Cross and His Resurrection, through which death was defeated and the doors to Heaven opened. (Let us stand and welcome the celebrant.)

(For Homily Hints please visit www.archdioceseofbombay.org/resources)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): God loved us and sent His Son into the world so that we may all be saved. Believing in the generosity and power of God, let us place our petitions before Him.

Our response is: Loving Father, hear our Prayer

1. That the Holy Father Pope Francis, the Bishops, Priests and the Religious may always proclaim the power of the Cross through their words and work; we pray to the Lord....
2. That the Church may effectively celebrate the triumph of the Cross in the Eucharist and draw people closer to God; we pray to the Lord...
3. That every Christian may celebrate the mystery of the cross with deep faith knowing that it is truly a sign of our salvation; we pray to the Lord...

4. That those who experience suffering and difficulties may never give up hope as they are inspired by the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus on the cross; we pray to the Lord...

5. May our lives as disciples of Jesus always reflect the message of the Cross in all that we say and do; we pray to the Lord...

6. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Lord, as we bend our knees at the name of Jesus, who suffered and died on the Cross and rose to new life, we thank you for your kindness and your mercy which we have received through Your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

September 21, 2014
25th Sunday Of The Year

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Rejoice in the Lord
Com: I am the Bread of Life
Rec: Sing Life, Sing Love

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to today's Eucharistic celebration. The love of God cannot be measured by any human standard. By human reckoning what the Landowner does in the Gospel parable is simply unbelievable – the employers of today would think it foolish – but our God is a God of love, like no other.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Heavenly Father, in your divine plan of salvation you called each one of us to be members of the Body of Christ, the Church. We pray for her various needs that you may bless our plans to make the church vibrant and truly alive.

Our response is: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

1. That the Pope, Bishops, priests and the lay faithful who guide and shepherd the Church experience the power of God and go forth to spread his word, providing capable and effective leadership; we pray to the Lord.....
2. That the Gospel and its values may inspire the youth of our parish to live better Christian lives; we pray to the Lord....
3. That by our lives, we may proclaim the love of Christ to all; we pray to the Lord....
4. That we may proclaim the Word of God, boldly and without fear; we pray to the Lord...
5. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord....

(Cel): Lord, bless our community with dedicated workers. Grant us clear vision and unfailing confidence in your constant grace to work and build your Kingdom. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

September 28, 2014
26th Sunday Of The Year

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Come on & celebrate
Com: Lose yourself
Rec: Lightened by the word

INTRODUCTION

Today we celebrate Christ who obeyed the Father's will. We are invited not to offer mere lip service but to get our hands dirty – to work with mind, heart and body - to build the kingdom of God here on earth.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ let us come to our merciful and compassionate Father with grateful hearts. We ask for strength to obey him, to respond to his love, and to work hard in his vineyard.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For Francis our Pope, Bishops, clergy and religious that they may always see the 'face of Christ' in whatever work they do; we pray to the Lord...
2. For those who have been disillusioned by mere lip service, that they may be touched by God's love; we pray to the Lord...
3. That we may learn from the converts to our faith, by understanding their deep love for Jesus and the faith, and not take our faith for granted; we pray to the Lord...
4. For the differently abled children and young adults, that they may never feel less privileged among us, but find love, understanding and patience in the community in which they live; we pray to the Lord...
5. For our personal needs and the needs of the church; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Father, we offer our gratitude to you, and count on your compassion and mercy in granting the prayers that we have made this day. We ask this with complete confidence, through Christ our Lord. Amen

October 5, 2014

Thanksgiving Sunday

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: All peoples of the universe

Com: Be exalted O God

Rec: We want to give you thanks

INTRODUCTION

We welcome you to this Eucharist celebrating Thanksgiving Sunday. The Eucharist is the most important prayer of thanksgiving to God for the numerous blessings he showers on us. As we join the Archdiocese in appreciating the Lord for His goodness, let us also reflect this gratitude in our own relationships with each other. Let us stand and welcome the celebrant.

(For Homily Hints please visit www.archdioceseofbombay.org/resources)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): St. Paul reminds us that if there is anything we need, we must ask God for it in prayer and thanksgiving. We place our petitions with deep faith and gratitude in God who wants us to be productive witnesses in his Kingdom.

Our response is: Merciful Lord, hear our prayer

1. Grateful as we are for Pope Francis, and for all the leaders of the Church all over the world, we pray that God may bless their initiatives in producing good fruit in his vineyard of love; we ask this in faith...
2. Grateful as we are for the gift of life and talents, we pray that we may all work diligently for the spread of the Gospel wherever we are, even in times of opposition and ridicule; we ask this in faith...
3. Grateful as we are for the gift of the Church and community to which we belong, we pray that we may reflect our gratitude by our participation in the Eucharist, and the service we are called to render to those who need assistance in different ways; we ask this in faith...

4. Grateful as we are for the gift of our family, we pray that we may always live in peace, with respect for each other and care and concern for those who are sick and aged; we ask this in faith...

5. Grateful as we are for the many blessings we receive, we pray that in the spirit of the Eucharist we may always share what we have received with those who are struggling with life, with their difficult situations and experiences of insecurity; we ask this in faith...

(Cel): Lord, we thank You for the many gifts and blessings that you shower on us and for listening to the prayers we make with deep faith in You and in Your Son, Jesus who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

October 12, 2014
28th Sunday Of The Year

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Celebrate God
Com: The Saviour is waiting
Rec: You shall go out with joy

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this Eucharistic celebration. Today's readings encourage us to live in the fullness of the Eucharist, to accept God's invitation to attend his banquet and celebrate with him.

(Let us welcome the celebrant and join in the entrance hymn...)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Let us pray to our Father, in complete faith, as we make our petitions.

Our response is: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

1. We pray for Francis our Pope, Bishops, priests and religious that, by their example they may show us the way to live a life worthy of our vocation; we pray to the Lord....

2. We pray for our national leaders that drawing strength from God they may always work for the benefit of the people in their care; we pray to the Lord....

3. We pray for people struggling with their faith, that by deriving strength from the Eucharist, they may face their problems with courage and determination; we pray to the Lord....

4. For all of us gathered here, that nourished by the Eucharist we may always work with integrity and dedication in every task we take up; we pray to the Lord...

5. For our personal and local needs, we pray to the Lord.....

(Cel): Heavenly father we make this prayer to you, in union with your son, our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

October 19, 2014
Mission Sunday

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: In the name of Jesus
Com: Lord I am not worthy
Rec: Great things happen

INTRODUCTION

Today, in our Archdiocese, we celebrate Mission Sunday - a reminder that each one of us is called to partake in God's mission to build his Kingdom. By virtue of our Baptism, we are commissioned to continue Christ's work. May we contribute to the building of the kingdom through both our civil and religious duties.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Gracious Father, filled with the joy of this celebration, we come to you with confidence and place our prayers and petitions before your merciful and compassionate heart.

Our response is: Lord hear our prayer

1. For the Church and its leaders, Pope Francis, Bishops and priests; we pray to the Lord....
2. For our nation and the local community and for all who serve in our government; we pray to the Lord....
3. For the poor, the homeless and the unemployed, and for all who suffer persecution of any kind; we pray to the Lord....
4. For the sick and for all those unable to be present here today; we pray to the Lord....
5. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Loving Father, look with kindness on us and the prayers and petitions we have placed before you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

October 26, 2014
30th Sunday Of The Year

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: As the deer
Com: A new commandment
Rec: We are happy Christians

INTRODUCTION

Today, through the strength Christ gives us, we can celebrate with joy the great commandment of love. May we, today, reach out in love to family, friends and all neighbours.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Let us put forward our humble petitions to our Lord, knowing that a loving God will give us a listening ear.

Our Response is: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

1. For Pope Francis, all the ministers of the Church and all the religious, that their preaching and example may encourage the faithful to stand firm in their belief as witnesses of love; we pray to the Lord...

2. For all our government leaders that they may guide their people with love and understanding; we pray to the Lord...

3. For the many ministries of the Church that reveal God's power and love to the world, especially our educational institutions, health care facilities, community centers, and charitable services: that may they enjoy full protection to fulfil their mission; we pray to the Lord...

4. For those in need, for the sick, for those in hospital, for those who are sad, lonely or grieving and those who help them; we pray to the Lord.....

5. We pray for our families, friends and local needs. May we be able to help each other just as you love and help us; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Heavenly Father, we have placed our prayers before you in complete humility. Grant us our petitions through Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 2, 2014
All Souls Day

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Eternal rest grant unto us oh Lord
Com: Abide with me
Rec: Who shall separate us

INTRODUCTION

Today's Mass places the reality of our own death in front of us in a special way, as we pray for all those who have gone ahead of us into the next life. At every Eucharist, we are brought into the presence of Christ's death and resurrection as he joins us into himself so that he can take us back to our Father in heaven.

In facing death, we must remember that it is our lives that really matter. With God's loving presence within our hearts, may we strive to spread His love to others, to leave the legacy of a better community, country and world. To genuinely love and be loved and die in God's good grace should be the endeavour of all of us.

Readings may be taken from the Lectionary for the Dead

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Dear brothers and sisters, Our Risen Lord has assured us of life after death and so, in faith, we pray to our heavenly Father.

Our response is: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

1. For Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and Religious, that their teaching and example may encourage the faithful to stand firm in their belief as witnesses of love; we pray to the Lord...

2. That the Church of Christ throughout the world may faithfully preach the Gospel which is spirit and life; we pray to the Lord....

3. That we, who follow Jesus, may trust in him who has the words of eternal life; we pray to the Lord....

4. That we may be eager to serve one another's needs in love and fidelity strengthened by his Word; we pray to the Lord....

5. That our sharing in this Eucharist may renew our sense of oneness and enable us to respond more generously to all who call upon us; we pray to the Lord....

6. That all the departed souls may find eternal rest in the Lord; we pray to the Lord....

7. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Father in heaven, we place these petitions before you with the assurance that you will hear our prayer. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 9, 2014
32nd Sunday Of The Year

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: A lamp for our steps
Com: Take this and eat
Rec: Put on the armour

INTRODUCTION

At the time of Jesus, the temple of Jerusalem was commercialized; we, too, may be guilty of disrespecting our places of worship. May our participation in the Eucharist instill in us a sense of the Divine.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Dear brothers and sisters, in reverence, let us bring our prayers before our God of wisdom and love.

Our response is: Lord, graciously hear us.

1. For our Pope, Bishops and Priests that they may teach us the true values of Christ and be an example of humble and loving service to the Church; we pray to the Lord...
2. For people of different social and religious backgrounds that they may speak words of peace to one another, and thus respect each other and live in harmony; we pray to the Lord...
3. For all those who are physically and mentally challenged that they may be helped and protected by their dear ones and society; we pray to the Lord...
4. For all who are gathered here, that we may hear the Word with attention and respect and share it through the example of our own lives; we pray to the Lord...
5. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Father in heaven, we place our petitions before you with trust in your love and mercy. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

November 16, 2014

(Liturgy I) Children's Day

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: This is the day

Com: God still loves the world

Rec: We shall go out with joy

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the celebration of Children's Day in our parish. Childhood is a very important phase in the life of any human person. Proper encouragement and direction helps a child develop into a worthy human being. Neglect, criticism and abuse can lead to numerous problems in a child's growth. But every child we know carries within themselves hope and childlike wonder, and today as we celebrate and appreciate children, let us pray that God may always bless and protect them and draw them closer to Himself and His Son Jesus. We stand and welcome the celebrant.

(For Homily Hints please visit www.archdioceseofbombay.org/resources)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Human beings go through stages of life to be able to learn from them and grow in maturity. Children are the most vulnerable during this process of growth because what happens to them and what is communicated to them creates an impact. As we place all our petitions for the children of our parish, we are assured of God's blessings and graces at all times.

Our response is: Lord, listen to your children praying.

1. That Pope Francis, the Bishops and Priests and Religious all over the world may always exhibit their care for children in their words and actions; we pray to the Lord...

2. That the Church may always create avenues for children to experience the presence of God in her catechesis, worship and liturgy; we pray to the Lord...

3. That children in our homes may always experience the comfort and protection of their family as they grow to be responsible citizens of the country; we pray to the Lord...

4. That children who are orphans, who are abandoned, sick and struggling with living may find care and protection in shelters and homes and healing in their lives; we pray to the Lord...

5. That babies in wombs may always be protected from evil and irresponsible mindsets that seek their deaths for various reasons; we pray to the Lord...

6. That the children of our parish may grow to love God and Jesus and seek the power of the Spirit in their lives; we pray to the Lord...

7. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Lord, we pray and you listen to the cries of our hearts as we pray especially today for little children, that they may enjoy life and be protected from all that is evil. We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

(After Communion, gather all the children facing the altar and have the congregation raise their right hands over them as the blessing prayer is recited.)

BLESSING OF CHILDREN

O God Our Father, we surrender to you these little children who have come to us from you. Bless them now and through all the days of their lives. Protect them in moments of helplessness; keep them safe from childhood's dangers; and grant that they may grow to maturity, and do a good day's work and witness to You. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(The children may be sprinkled with holy water)

November 16, 2014
(Liturgy II) World Day
of Communications

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: A lamp for our steps

Com: Jesus Christ living in us

Rec: Go forth among the people / We stand for God

INTRODUCTION

The capacity to communicate is at the heart of what it means to be human. It is in and through our communication that we are able to meet and encounter at a meaningful level other people, express who we are, what we think and believe, how we wish to live and perhaps, more importantly, to come to know those with whom we are called to live. This is at the very heart of the message of Pope Francis on the occasion of the 48th World day of Communications. He invites us to understand that communication should be at the service of an authentic culture of encounter. We pray that through our participation at this Holy Eucharist we may experience an encounter with Jesus our Lord.

(For Homily Hints please visit www.archdioceseofbombay.org/resources)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(**Cel**): Lord, you call us to go out to all the world and spread the Good News. Help us to make the best use of the many means available to us to be always preaching and living the Gospel.

Our response is: Lord hear us.

1. That Christians working in the media may bring to bear on their work the values of their faith; for this we pray to the Lord...
2. That children may learn from their families how to make good choices in their use of social networks; for this we pray to the Lord...
3. That legislators may enact media laws that publicly protect human dignity and build up our culture; for this we pray to the Lord...

4. That those involved in media promote the common good and that all of us may be vigilant consumers of their products; for this we pray to the Lord...

5. That we may support all those people who work for the Church in all media -print, radio, television, film and social media - may they be rewarded for their labours in reaching out to draw people to hear God's word; for this we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): God of all Revelation, listen to these prayers. Bless our work to bring your kingdom here on earth, so that all people will know your saving deeds. We ask this through Jesus Christ who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

November 23, 2014

Solemnity Of Our Lord Jesus Christ The Universal King

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Ent: Glory, praise and honour

Com: Make me an instrument of your Peace

Rec: The King of Glory comes

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the celebration of the Eucharist on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the Universal King. We surrender our lives to Jesus, Our King and the true shepherd and we pray that as his followers we may draw strength from the Eucharist and always work for the lost, the last and the least in his kingdom. Let us stand and welcome the celebrant.

(For Homily Hints please visit www.archdioceseofbombay.org/resources)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): The Lord who gives us rest and protection, nourishment and guidance is always listening to the prayers we make with faith in Him and His Son Jesus, Our King.

Our response is: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

1. That Pope Francis, the Bishops, the Priests and Religious may always be inspired by the Shepherd as they exercise authority through humility; we pray to the Lord...

2. That those who govern the people in civil matters may always care for the economically challenged, the sick, the unemployed, the uneducated and the outcasts of society; we pray to the Lord...

3. That each one of us may always draw nourishment from the Eucharist as we reach out in the name of Jesus, to those who are suffering, those who are persecuted, those who are cheated and betrayed and those who have lost all reason to live; we pray to the Lord...

4. That those who serve the Church in different capacities may always reflect the humility and patience of Jesus, the King in all their words and actions; we pray to the Lord...

5. That those who experience God's mercy may always be merciful and forgiving in all their words and actions as they work for God's Kingdom on earth; we pray to the Lord...

6. For our personal and local needs; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Lord, we are grateful to You for having listened to our prayers and for calling each one of us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, Your Son and our Universal King who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

PARALITURGICAL SERVICES

Prayers During Procession For The Solemnity Of Christ The King

(Since the procession will be with the Monstrance, we must remember that the Rosary would be an inappropriate prayer)

Hymn: I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing (2)
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known, thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness

With my mouth will I make known, thy faithfulness to all generations. (Ch)

LEADER: As we accompany Jesus in prayer our response is: Bless & protect us.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour... } (10 times)

ALL: Bless and protect us.

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation
Jesus, you're my inspiration
Jesus, you're the treasure of my life

LEADER: Our response will now be: Bless and protect our families.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour... } (10 times)

ALL: Bless and protect our families

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation...

LEADER: Our response will now be: Bless & strengthen our parish.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour... } (10 times)

ALL: Bless & strengthen our parish

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation...

LEADER: Our response will now be: Bless & safeguard our country.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour... } (10 times)

ALL: Bless & safeguard our country

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation...

LEADER: Our response will now be: Bless & inspire our youth.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour... } (10 times)

ALL: Bless & inspire our youth

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation...

LEADER: Our response will now be: Bless & guard our children.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour... } (10 times)

ALL: Bless & guard our children

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation...

LEADER: Our response will now be: Bless & care for our priests & religious.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour... } (10 times)

ALL: Bless & care for our priests & religious

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation...

LEADER: Our response will now be: Bless & empower our animators.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour } (10 times)

ALL: Bless & empower our animators

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation...

LEADER: Our response will now be: Bless & heal the sick and disturbed.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour... } (10 times)

ALL: Bless & heal the sick and disturbed

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation...

LEADER: Our response will now be: Bless & shelter the poor & the homeless.

LEADER: Jesus our King and our Saviour... } (10 times)

ALL: Bless & shelter the poor & the homeless

LEADER: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Hymn: Jesus, you are my salvation...

Final Hymn: I have decided to follow Jesus

NOVENAS

Sept. 8, 2014, Nativity Of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Theme: Mary, Living in the fullness of the Eucharist

BACKGROUND NOTES

Chapter Six: of Ecclesia de Eucharistia [John Paul II]

AT THE SCHOOL OF MARY, “WOMAN OF THE EUCHARIST”

53. If we wish to rediscover in all its richness the profound relationship between the Church and the Eucharist, we cannot neglect Mary, Mother and model of the Church. In my Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, I pointed to the Blessed Virgin Mary as our teacher in contemplating Christ’s face, and among the mysteries of light I included the institution of the Eucharist.¹⁰² Mary can guide us towards this most holy sacrament, because she herself has a profound relationship with it.

At first glance, the Gospel is silent on this subject. The account of the institution of the Eucharist on the night of Holy Thursday makes no mention of Mary. Yet we know that she was present among the Apostles who prayed “with one accord” (cf. Acts 1:14) in the first community which gathered after the Ascension in expectation of Pentecost. Certainly Mary must have been present at the Eucharistic celebrations of the first generation of Christians, who were devoted to “the breaking of bread” (Acts 2:42).

But in addition to her sharing in the Eucharistic banquet, an indirect picture of Mary’s relationship with the Eucharist can be had, beginning with her interior disposition. Mary is a “woman of the Eucharist” in her whole life. The Church, which looks to Mary as a model, is also called to imitate her in her relationship with this most holy mystery.

54. *Mysterium fidei!* If the Eucharist is a mystery of faith which so greatly transcends our understanding as to call for sheer abandonment to the word of God, then there can be no one like Mary to act as our support and guide in acquiring this disposition. In repeating what Christ did at the Last Supper in obedience to his command: “Do this in memory of me!”, we also accept Mary’s invitation to obey him without hesitation: “Do whatever he

tells you” (Jn 2:5). With the same maternal concern which she showed at the wedding feast of Cana, Mary seems to say to us: “Do not waver; trust in the words of my Son. If he was able to change water into wine, he can also turn bread and wine into his body and blood, and through this mystery bestow on believers the living memorial of his passover, thus becoming the ‘bread of life’”.

55. In a certain sense Mary lived her Eucharistic faith even before the institution of the Eucharist, by the very fact that she offered her virginal womb for the Incarnation of God’s Word. The Eucharist, while commemorating the passion and resurrection, is also in continuity with the incarnation. At the Annunciation Mary conceived the Son of God in the physical reality of his body and blood, thus anticipating within herself what to some degree happens sacramentally in every believer who receives, under the signs of bread and wine, the Lord’s body and blood.

As a result, there is a profound analogy between the Fiat which Mary said in reply to the angel, and the Amen which every believer says when receiving the body of the Lord. Mary was asked to believe that the One whom she conceived “through the Holy Spirit” was “the Son of God” (Lk 1:30-35). In continuity with the Virgin’s faith, in the Eucharistic mystery we are asked to believe that the same Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, becomes present in his full humanity and divinity under the signs of bread and wine.

“Blessed is she who believed” (Lk 1:45). Mary also anticipated, in the mystery of the incarnation, the Church’s Eucharistic faith. When, at the Visitation, she bore in her womb the Word made flesh, she became in some way a “tabernacle” – the first “tabernacle” in history – in which the Son of God, still invisible to our human gaze, allowed himself to be adored by Elizabeth, radiating his light as it were through the eyes and the voice of Mary. And is not the enraptured gaze of Mary as she contemplated the face of the newborn Christ and cradled him in her arms that unparalleled model of love which should inspire us every time we receive Eucharistic communion?

56. Mary, throughout her life at Christ’s side and not only on Calvary, made her own the sacrificial dimension of the Eucharist. When she brought the child Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem “to present him to the Lord” (Lk 2:22), she heard the aged Simeon announce that the child would be a “sign of contradiction” and that a sword would also pierce her own heart (cf. Lk

2:34-35). The tragedy of her Son's crucifixion was thus foretold, and in some sense Mary's *Stabat Mater* at the foot of the Cross was foreshadowed. In her daily preparation for Calvary, Mary experienced a kind of "anticipated Eucharist" – one might say a "spiritual communion" – of desire and of oblation, which would culminate in her union with her Son in his passion, and then find expression after Easter by her partaking in the Eucharist which the Apostles celebrated as the memorial of that passion.

What must Mary have felt as she heard from the mouth of Peter, John, James and the other Apostles the words spoken at the Last Supper: "This is my body which is given for you" (Lk 22:19)? The body given up for us and made present under sacramental signs was the same body which she had conceived in her womb! For Mary, receiving the Eucharist must have somehow meant welcoming once more into her womb that heart which had beat in unison with hers and reliving what she had experienced at the foot of the Cross.

57. "Do this in remembrance of me" (Lk 22:19). In the "memorial" of Calvary all that Christ accomplished by his passion and his death is present. Consequently all that Christ did with regard to his Mother for our sake is also present. To her he gave the beloved disciple and, in him, each of us: "Behold, your Son!". To each of us he also says: "Behold your mother!" (cf. Jn 19: 26-27).

Experiencing the memorial of Christ's death in the Eucharist also means continually receiving this gift. It means accepting – like John – the one who is given to us anew as our Mother. It also means taking on a commitment to be conformed to Christ, putting ourselves at the school of his Mother and allowing her to accompany us. Mary is present, with the Church and as the Mother of the Church, at each of our celebrations of the Eucharist. If the Church and the Eucharist are inseparably united, the same ought to be said of Mary and the Eucharist. This is one reason why, since ancient times, the commemoration of Mary has always been part of the Eucharistic celebrations of the Churches of East and West.

58. In the Eucharist the Church is completely united to Christ and his sacrifice, and makes her own the spirit of Mary. This truth can be understood more deeply by re-reading the Magnificat in a Eucharistic key. The Eucharist, like the *Canticle of Mary*, is first and foremost praise and

thanksgiving. When Mary exclaims: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”, she already bears Jesus in her womb. She praises God “through” Jesus, but she also praises him “in” Jesus and “with” Jesus. This is itself the true “Eucharistic attitude”.

At the same time Mary recalls the wonders worked by God in salvation history in fulfilment of the promise once made to the fathers (cf. Lk 1:55), and proclaims the wonder that surpasses them all, the redemptive incarnation. Lastly, the Magnificat reflects the eschatological tension of the Eucharist. Every time the Son of God comes again to us in the “poverty” of the sacramental signs of bread and wine, the seeds of that new history wherein the mighty are “put down from their thrones” and “those of low degree are exalted” (cf. Lk 1:52), take root in the world. Mary sings of the “new heavens” and the “new earth” which find in the Eucharist their anticipation and in some sense their programme and plan. The Magnificat expresses Mary’s spirituality, and there is nothing greater than this spirituality for helping us to experience the mystery of the Eucharist. The Eucharist has been given to us so that our life, like that of Mary, may become completely a Magnificat!

DAY 1

Mary Sang God's Praises

Mary's *Magnificat*, her beautiful song of praise, should be our song of thanksgiving. With the Eternal Son of God taking flesh in her womb, Mary sang, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." So, too, every time we participate in the liturgy and truly encounter Christ who speaks to us in His Word, Christ whose sacrifice of love is truly present on the altar, Christ who gives Himself as our food and drink - we should say, as did Mary, "the Lord has done great things for me, and holy is His name."

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Loving Father, gathered together in gratitude for all your goodness and love, we place our petitions before you with deep faith.

Our response is: Gracious lord, hear our prayer.

1. That like Mary, all our leaders of the Church may reflect a Eucharistic attitude of gratitude for the numerous blessings received; we pray to the Lord...
2. That like Mary, every Christian may recount the marvelous deeds that the Lord has done; we pray to the Lord...
3. That each one of us may show our gratitude to God for His goodness through our prayer and participation in the Eucharist; we pray to the Lord...
4. That our parish community may be generous in gratitude and appreciation to one another, lest we take our relationships for granted; we pray to the Lord...
5. That every Eucharist we participate in may be a powerful encounter with God who provides for us and protects us; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): We thank you Lord for listening to the prayers we have made with deep faith in You and Your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 2

Mary Prayed With Faith

We know that Mary was present with the apostles who prayed “with one accord” (Acts 1:14) for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it follows that Mary was most certainly present at the Eucharistic celebrations of the early Christians who were devoted to “the breaking of bread” (Acts 2:42).

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Father in heaven, we know that when two are three are gathered together in prayer in deep faith, You are present in their midst. As we pray with faith for the many needs of our lives.

Our response is: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

1. That Pope Francis and all the leaders of the Church may draw strength from the Eucharist, as they pray for the various needs of the Church; we pray to the Lord...

2. That every Christian may gather around the Eucharistic table with faith, seeking spiritual inspiration through their prayer and worship; we pray to the Lord...

3. That each one of us may discover the power of the Eucharist as the source and summit of Christian life; we pray to the Lord...

4. That like the early Church, our parish community may always gather for the Eucharist and pray with one accord setting aside differences that separate us; we pray to the Lord...

5. That every Eucharist we participate in may be a powerful experience of prayer that gives us strength and peace; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Lord, we thank You for the opportunity of communicating with You through our prayers which we make with deep faith in You and Your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 3

Mary Treasured The Word

Mary is the new ark of the covenant, who, bearing the Word of God, brings “salvation and joy to the home of Elizabeth” (I Chronicles 13:14). In every Eucharist we celebrate the promise of salvation in the Word that is proclaimed for our reflection and action.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): God our Creator and Guide, Your love for us is evident in the Word which outlines Your promises and Your mercy at all times. May Your Word always direct us in our moments of indecision.

Our response is: Abba Father, hear our prayer.

1. That like Mary, all the leaders of the Church draw strength and inspiration from God’s Word as they lead the people entrusted to their care; we pray to the Lord...
2. That like Mary, every Christian may ponder on the Word of God and its effects on our daily living; we pray to the Lord...
3. That each one of us may discover the richness of God’s Word through the Eucharist and our own personal reflection; we pray to the Lord...
4. That our parish community may always live by the teachings of God as found in Scripture; we pray to the Lord...
5. That every Eucharist we participate in may challenge us through the Word of God to be witnesses of God’s love; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Lord, we thank you for Your Word that enlightens our minds. As you listen to the prayers we make, may Your Word continue to empower us to work for Your greater glory. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

DAY 4

Mary Offered The Lamb Of Sacrifice

Mary is the virgin, the handmaid of God's plan of salvation who presents to Him the spotless Lamb, to be sacrificed on the altar of the cross for our salvation. At the Presentation in the Temple Simeon prophesied about the "sword of suffering that would pierce her soul." At Cana she presented Jesus as the one who would save an earthly situation, as though already preparing for Calvary when she held the lifeless body of Jesus, broken for the world. She presented Jesus once again through his salvific act on the cross.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Our Lord Jesus was offered as the lamb of sacrifice on the altar of the cross. He was the fulfillment of the promise made by God of a Saviour who would redeem His people. We place our petitions before our God who listens to our prayers and is concerned about His people.

Our response is: God of love, hear our prayer.

1. That Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and Religious may always celebrate the Eucharist commemorating the sacrifice of Jesus; we pray to the Lord...
2. That every Christian may recognise the suffering of Jesus sacrificed on the cross for our sins; we pray to the Lord...
3. That each one of us may offer our own pain and suffering to the Lord celebrating the sacrifice of Jesus; we pray to the Lord...
4. That our parish community may be generous in the offering of their resources for the relief of people who suffer and are in pain; we pray to the Lord...
5. That every Eucharist we participate in will be for us a life-giving memorial of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus giving us hope for a redeemed future; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Loving Lord, we thank You for sending us Your Son Jesus who suffered and died for our sins so that we may share the fullness of life with You and him, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 5

Mary Experienced The Passion, Death and Resurrection Of Jesus

Just as suffering was a major part of Our Lord's life, it was a constant occurrence in the life of Mary. Beginning with Simeon's crucifixion prophecy at the Lord's Presentation ("a sword will pierce your soul") and culminating with Our Lord's death on the Cross, Mary had a very real share in the suffering of Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Gracious Lord, Mary believed in Your promise of salvation even if it meant she would have to suffer to see her son Jesus experience suffering and abandonment. We place our own struggles before You knowing that You will give us the strength to accept suffering in our lives.

Our response is: Merciful Lord, hear our prayer.

1. That like Mary, all our leaders of the Church may experience the comforting presence of God in their suffering; we pray to the Lord...
2. That like Mary, every Christian may be ready to accept God's will even in moments of pain and suffering; we pray to the Lord...
3. That each one of us may identify with the suffering Christ through our offering of struggles and pain during the Eucharist; we pray to the Lord...
4. That like the early Church, our parish community may be inspired to share the burdens of suffering and pain of one another; we pray to the Lord...
5. That every Eucharist we participate in may be a powerful reminder of a God who suffered and died for us; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Father in heaven, we believe in the promise of Your Son that You will never abandon us. We have placed our needs before You with deep faith in You and Your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 6

Mary Interceded For Others

In Cana of Galilee, when she interceded with her Son for the bridegroom and bride, he gave the first of his signs; water was turned into wine, the wedding guests rejoiced, and the disciples believed in their Master. She continues to play the role of a powerful intercessor for God's people.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Loving Father, we recognize Mother Mary as an intercessor for the Church because of the close relationship she shares with You and Your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. As we place our needs and intentions before You with faith in her intercession.

Our response is: Lord, listen to your people praying.

1. That through Mary's intercession, Pope Francis and all the leaders of the Church may be inspired to lead the people of God closer to God; we pray to the Lord...
2. That through Mary's intercession, every Christian may witness to the presence of Jesus in their lives even in the midst of persecution and opposition; we pray to the Lord...
3. That through Mary's intercession, each one of us may live and proclaim Gospel values even in the midst of materialism and ridicule; we pray to the Lord...
4. That through Mary's intercession, our parish community may be examples of love, charity and unity seeking the Lord's presence in all our activities; we pray to the Lord...
5. That through Mary's intercession, every Eucharist we participate in may inspire us to be concerned and willing to work for those who are poor, sick and struggling with life's difficulties; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Precious Lord, we are grateful to you for listening to the prayers we have made through the intercession of Mary, Our Mother and with deep faith in You, Your Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 7

Mary Was In Union With God And Jesus

In her sincere obedience to the Law and her wholehearted acceptance of God's will, Mary is "exalted among the humble and poor of the Lord, who trustingly hope in him for salvation and from him receives it. After the long period of waiting for the fulfillment of the promise, in her at last the fullness of time is reached, and a new order of providence is begun, when the Son of God takes from her a human nature in order to free the human family from sin through the mysteries of his earthly life" (LG, no. 55).

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): God our Father, you call us to be in union with You and Your Son Jesus, so that we can always gather the strength that comes from being connected with You at all times like the vine and its branches. We place our petitions before you with deep faith.

Our response is: God of peace, hear our prayer.

1. That like Mary, all the leaders of the Church may draw strength from their union with God and Jesus in their prayer and worship; we pray to the Lord...
2. That like Mary, every Christian may seek to develop a close relationship with God and with Jesus as our Creator and our Redeemer; we pray to the Lord...
3. That each one of us may reflect our faith and trust in God and in Jesus as we overcome our struggles and suffering; we pray to the Lord...
4. That our parish community may reflect the unity that God shares with Jesus and the Spirit; we pray to the Lord...
5. That in every Eucharist we participate in, we may be drawn into a powerful encounter with God who provides for us and protects us; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): We thank you Lord for listening to the prayers we have made with deep faith in You and Your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 8

Mary Carried The Divine Presence

Mary, is “the new daughter of Zion”, who in her womb bears the Lord, the King of Israel (Zephaniah 3:14-18a); She is the “new ark of the covenant”, who, bearing the Word of God, brings “salvation and joy to the home of Elizabeth” (I Chronicles 13:14)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Loving Father, just as Mary carried the Lord in her womb and then in her heart at all times, we pray that we too may be strengthened by His presence in us at all times and in our recognition of him in others. As we pray for our needs...

Our response is: Hear our prayer, O Lord our God.

1. That Pope Francis and all our leaders of the Church, like Mary, may reflect the presence of Jesus in us at all times; we pray to the Lord...
2. That like Mary, every Christian may carry Jesus in their words and actions into every situation they experience and relationship they share; we pray to the Lord...
3. That each one of us may be recognised as a vessel that carries Jesus as we bring healing and peace in the world; we pray to the Lord...
4. That our parish community may recognise the presence of Jesus in all those who live around us; we pray to the Lord...
5. That every Eucharist we participate in may fill us with the Lord's presence as we carry Him into a broken and fractured world seeking his graces; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): Gracious Lord, we thank you for the eternal presence of Jesus in our lives and we make these prayers with deep faith in Him, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 9

Mary Reached Out In Love

Mary, on hearing the words of an angel, hastens to play her part in the work of salvation, as she proclaims God's greatness in her song of praise and thanksgiving (Luke 1:39-56). A paragon of loving service, she is rightly hailed as blessed "because she believed in God's promise of salvation" (Luke 1:45). Her humility is looked upon with favor by God (Luke 1:48) and will be acclaimed by all generations.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

(Cel): Abba Father, just as Mary reached out to help, we too are commissioned after every Eucharist to make a difference in the world in Your name. We seek your power and strength to witness to You at all times.

Our response is: Loving father, hear our prayer.

1. That Pope Francis and all the leaders of the Church may reflect Mary's humility and generosity in their ministries; we pray to the Lord...
2. That like Mary, every Christian may be recognised by their readiness to serve God and His people; we pray to the Lord...
3. That each one of us may never count the cost and the time in being available in service in the Lord's name; we pray to the Lord...
4. That every Eucharist we participate in may empower our parish community to reach out to the poor, the sick, the depressed and the suffering and help them experience its healing power; we pray to the Lord...
5. That young men and women may be inspired to serve as priests and religious in the Lord's vineyard; we pray to the Lord...

(Cel): We thank you Lord for the example set by Mary in being available for the needs of those around her. Give us the strength to be like her at all times. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY HOURS

August 1: First Friday Holy Hour

Celebrating the Priesthood: Our Ministers of the Eucharist

(Appoint a commentator to take on the role of the Leader, readers for the two readings, cantors to lead the singing. If used for the Parish team on Vianney Sunday, invite the priests to sit together.)

HYMN as the Blessed Sacrament is being exposed: Father we adore You.

LEADER: When our Lord Jesus gathered his disciples around the Passover table at the Last Supper, he entrusted special responsibilities to them - to be leaders of the people whom he was entrusting to their care. After the death and the resurrection of Jesus, when the disciples became aware of their responsibilities after the outpouring of the Spirit on each one of them, they began to exercise their leadership in word and actions. From these disciples we have gradually received priests who have served us in different ways over the years and, in preparation for Vianney Sunday we join our very own Frs. *(name the priests serving in your parish)* in adoring you and worshipping you and seeking your blessings on all their work.

We begin our reflection and prayer with some thoughts of St. John Vianney on Priests.

READER: "What is a priest! A man who holds the place of God--a man who is invested with all the powers of God. If we had not the Sacrament of Orders, we should not have Our Lord. Who placed Him there, in that tabernacle? It was the priest. Who was it that received your soul, on its entrance into life? The priest. Who nourishes it, to give it strength to make its pilgrimage? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, by washing that soul, for the last time, in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest - always the priest. And if that soul comes to the point of death, who will raise it up, who will restore it to calmness and peace? Again the priest. You cannot recall one single blessing from God without finding, side by side with this recollection, the image of the priest.

The priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the Sacraments to himself. He is not for himself, he is

for you. “When people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest, because where there is no longer any priest there is no sacrifice, and where there is no longer any sacrifice there is no religion.

When you see a priest, you should say, “There is he who made me a child of God, and opened Heaven to me by holy Baptism; he who purified me after I had sinned; who gives nourishment to my soul.”

What joy did the Apostles feel after the Resurrection of Our Lord, at seeing the Master whom they had loved so much! The priest must feel the same joy, at seeing Our Lord whom he holds in his hands. The fingers of the priest, that have touched the adorable Flesh of Jesus Christ, that have been plunged into the chalice which contained His Blood, into the pyx where His Body has lain, are they not still more precious? The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus. When you see the priest, think of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Pause for a short while)

LEADER: This extract from the reflections of St John Vianney is a rich source of knowledge for each one of us about the identity of the priest in the Church. Let us now spend a few moments in silent reflection calling to mind the various priests we know – in our parish, those who have served in this parish before, those in our family, those who may have been our principals, those who may have catechised us, those whom we may have encountered in the sacraments or at formation programmes or camps...there may be even priests special to you who have passed away...we remember them with gratitude in our hearts.... *(pause for 4 minutes)*

Our response is: WE PRAISE YOU AND THANK YOU, O LORD

1. For the gift of the priesthood and all the graces that we receive from this gift...
2. For Frs. *(name the priests of the parish)* and for all that they do to build our community...
3. For the priest who baptised us and welcomed us into the community...
4. For the priest who healed us in the Sacrament of Confession...
5. For the priest who catechised us and helped us grow in the faith...
6. For the priest who celebrated our nuptials and made us aware of our responsibilities....
7. For the priest who visited our home and blessed us...

8. For the priest whose homilies touched our hearts and helped us reflect...
9. For the priest who anointed us & brought Jesus to us when we were sick...
10. For the priest who comforted us in our grief and moments of difficulty...
11. For the priest who taught us how to pray...
12. For the priest who encouraged our talents and strengths and guided our professional life...
13. For the priest who is a precious friend...

HYMN: I will sing of the mercies (PLEASE STAND)

LEADER: Please be seated. We now listen to a reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 26: 26-27

READER: “While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” The end of the reading.

LEADER: There are four important words in this text from the Last Supper which we have just heard which outline the message of the Eucharist – to take, to bless, to break and to give. And we see this beautifully reflected in the life of the priest.

To begin, a priest is ‘taken’ from a family like yours and mine, a human family where he has grown in, established relationships, enjoyed comfort. The taking is significant because it is God who takes while calling the priest to follow Him. God may not look at strengths, or good looks or qualifications or financial stability. God just takes and He qualifies the priest for His greater glory...

As we sit before the Blessed Sacrament, let us pray for the family of the priest from whom he is taken...let us pray for parents who sacrifice their son for the Lord’s service... let us pray for his siblings...let us pray for the struggles that the family experiences with the loss of a possible wage-earner... let us pray for those tender moments that the family will no longer enjoy completely without their beloved son. *(pause for 4 minutes)*

LEADER: We use this opportunity to pray for the families of priests from where they are taken to work in God’s vineyard...

Our response is: HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD

1. That the family of every priest who prepared him for service may be blessed by the Lord for their generosity. We ask this in faith....
2. That the mother of every priest who bore him in the womb and then nourished him to maturity may receive God's graces at all times... We ask this in faith....
3. That the father of every priest who played a role in grooming him for the world may enjoy the Lord's goodness and blessings... We ask this in faith....
4. That parents who are no longer alive may enjoy the comfort of God's everlasting embrace... We ask this in faith....
5. That many more families and parents may inspire their sons to be taken for service in the Lord's vineyard... We ask this in faith....

Hymn: All to Jesus, I surrender (PLEASE STAND)

LEADER: The priest who is taken is “blessed” by God and given the strength to serve in the Lord's vineyard. Through the process of formation, the priest receives qualities that help him serve, that will help him understand God better, to develop his own spirituality, to be surrounded by people who appreciate and encourage as well as criticise constructively.

As we sit before the Blessed Sacrament, let us call to mind the many blessings we see in priests – their ability to articulate their speech, to animate communities, to bring about peace and reconciliation, to bring healing, to catechise, to encourage talents and strengths...Let us appreciate the Lord for these blessings...*(pause for 4 minutes)*

LEADER: Priests transmit blessings from God at all times. We pray that they may always be worthy transmitters of God's love and grace in the world.

Our response is: GRACIOUS LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

1. That the talents and strengths our priests possess may always be used to encourage the growth of the people and animate communities for God's greater glory...we pray to the Lord...
2. That those who are involved in the process of formation of priests may help priests identify their strengths and work on their weaknesses for holistic development of personality...we pray to the Lord...
3. That priests may always use their abilities to reach out to the last, the

lost and the least among the people entrusted to their care...we pray to the Lord...

4. That priests may always attribute their giftedness to the glory of God who has created us and who gives us our talents and abilities...we pray to the Lord...

5. That those who are blessed with talent may be inspired to glorify God by serving as priests so as to encourage many more talents in the people they serve...we pray to the Lord...

HYMN: Lord make me like you (PLEASE STAND)

LEADER: The priest who is taken and blessed is broken in order to be shared. The priest goes through his own process of brokenness, of opposition, of indifference and even of sin. In his brokenness, he experiences the strengthening hand of God lifting Him up, to have a better view of the brokenness. Because he himself is broken, he has the ability to empathise with another's pain. Brokenness helps the priest to be more humble before the Lord and never to see himself as the saviour of all matters.

As we sit before the Blessed Sacrament, let us recall difficult moments that priests experience – the brokenness that they suffer because of ill health, difficult superiors and colleagues to deal with, indifferent and critical parishioners, the temptation to fall into sin, hopeless situations. Let us also beg forgiveness from God if we have placed unnecessary expectations on our priests, finding fault with their work and the way they behave...

(Pause for 4 minutes)

LEADER: Priests experience as much brokenness as all of us. They need our prayers at all times, especially that they may be able to deal with their brokenness and seek ways of healing.

As we pray, our response is: MERCIFUL LORD, HEAR US

1. That priests who experience brokenness in their lives and ministry may never feel abandoned by God in their times of struggle...we pray to the Lord...

2. That every priest who suffers indifference, failure, betrayal, hopelessness and fatigue in ministry may never become bitter individuals, but rather a better minister of the Lord..we pray to the Lord...

3. That priests who struggle in their ministries may be able to empathise with those who suffer in life...we pray to the Lord...
4. That priests may combat brokenness with prayer and deep reflection on the Word of God...we pray to the Lord...
5. That the selfless service rendered by priests who suffer may inspire many more men to offer their lives in service as priests...we pray to the Lord...

HYMN: Lay your hands gently upon us (PLEASE STAND)

LEADER: The priest who is taken, blessed and broken is now given to the people. To be used for God's glory, to serve, to reflect God's love to others. To go out into the world and proclaim the Good News, to bring healing, to catechise, to reconcile, to build bridges and break barriers.

(Invite one of the priests, preferably the Parish Priest to say this prayer while the congregation raises their right hands over the team of priests)

LEADER: As Fr _____ now recites this prayer, let us all raise our right hands over our team of priests in prayer and blessing.

PRIEST: God our Father, we are grateful that you have called us even with all our weaknesses to serve your people in different ways. We thank you for the talents and strengths You have blessed us with and for helping us develop skills to animate the people. Bless all the efforts we make to bring the people closer to You and to Your Son Jesus. Bless the people You have entrusted to us. Bless our voices that we may proclaim Your Word. Bless our hands that we may reach out in service. Bless our feet that we may walk to make You known. Bless our intellect that we may understand Your will for us. Forgive us for our failings, our inadequacies, our attitudes that reflect our own weaknesses. May we always collaborate with Jesus, Your Son, the High Priest and the Holy Spirit, in building Your Kingdom on earth. Amen.

HYMN: Make me a channel of your peace.

BENEDICTION

DIVINE PRAISES

CONCLUDING HYMN: COLOURS OF DAY

September 5: First Friday Holy Half Hour

Sharing in the Mysteries of Christ (1 Cor: 4:1)

HYMN : We are here to praise you or As we gather

INTRODUCTION

LEADER: The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life” and in spending time before the Blessed Sacrament, we encounter God’s presence in personal and profound ways. Participation in the Eucharist which does not ‘pass over’ into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically flawed. During this holy half hour let us pray to be challenged and moved to encounter Christ in the Eucharist in ways both personal and social.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

LEADER: Let us spend a few moments, silently, in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and ask for the grace to recognize Him in every person we meet. *(Silence for at least 2 mins)*

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 COR: 4:1-5

REFLECTION

LEADER: The Eucharist is the sign of our communion with God and our unity as the People of God. Together, transformed, we are sent forth to fulfill God’s will in our daily lives. The Eucharist is the celebration through which God draws us into communion with himself and with others, forming and transforming us to live as the Body of Christ in the world.

The Good News we have received should overflow into our lives and move us to mission in the world. Thus, the Concluding Rites of every Eucharist are not an end but a beginning, calling us to mission. We become promoters of communion, peace and solidarity.

Today’s reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (Ch 4:5) gently reminds us that God is the only true judge. God knows what circumstances have affected someone’s actions. God also knows the intentions that caused a person to act. God alone is the perfect judge. He will reward the people who have been loyal stewards in his house, the Church.

HYMN: If we live it’s for the Lord (Vs. 1&2) or Take my life, O Lord

LEADER: Let us place before the Lord our sincere petitions, bearing in mind that the Eucharist is truly the ‘Source and Summit’ of our life.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. That our Pope, Bishops & Priests may celebrate every Eucharist with deep faith and be shining examples to the flock they lead; we pray to the Lord...

2. That we as a community may never take the Eucharist for granted but grow deeper in the love of Christ each time we partake in its celebration; we pray to the Lord...

3. That all those who have left the Church may realise a sense of emptiness without the Eucharist and be drawn back to the richness of our faith; we pray to the Lord...

4. That each time we look at the Son of God nailed to the cross we may understand the unconditional love that God has shown us through Jesus; we pray to the Lord...

LEADER: Heavenly Father, we place all our petitions before you in deep faith. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

BENEDICTION

DIVINE PRAISES

CONCLUDING HYMN: Thank you Lord for all you've done

October 3: First Friday Holy Half Hour
**Guide me, Lord,
along the Everlasting Way** (Job: 38)

HYMN: Show me your way O Lord or any suitable hymn

INTRODUCTION

LEADER: We witness, through participation in the Holy Eucharist, the fullness and vitality of the parish and its associations. The Eucharist is, in the simplest yet most profound of terms, the source of life. In giving us the Eucharist at the Last Supper, Jesus gave us his very own body and blood, a priceless gift, one that enriches our spiritual lives here on earth and leads us eventually to the perfection of eternal life in heaven.

Let us, during this holy half hour, pray for the grace to be a people that celebrates the Mass faithfully, receives the Lord worthily, adores His presence unceasingly, and lives the Eucharist in a life poured out in loving service of the kingdom.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

(Silence for at least 2 mins)

SCRIPTURE READING: JOB 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5

REFLECTION

LEADER: Illness and suffering have always been problems that afflict our lives. In illness, man experiences his powerlessness and his limitations. Every illness can make us glimpse death. Illness can lead to anguish, self-absorption, sometimes even despair and revolt against God. It can also make a person more mature, helping him discern in his life what is not essential so that he can turn toward that which is. Very often, illness provokes a search for God and a return to him.

Christ transformed pain and suffering into occasions of merit. If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him. This assurance is renewed at every Eucharist in which we partake.

HYMN: I am the light bringing you out of darkness or any suitable hymn

LEADER: Ever loving God, we entrust ourselves to your mercy as we pray...

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For our Pope, Bishops and Priests that the light of Christ may be a beacon in a troubled world; we pray to the Lord...

2. For our families, that Christ may be their constant guide; we pray to the Lord...

3. That we may be filled with gratitude for all that we have received, as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving Day; we pray to the Lord...

4. For our government, our country, our State that Christ may be our guiding hope; we pray to the Lord...

LEADER: Hear, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful people as we strive to walk in the light of Christ. Amen

BENEDICTION

DIVINE PRAISES

CONCLUDING HYMN

November 7: First Friday Holy Half Hour
Rejoice in the Lord Always (Ps:122)

OPENING HYMN: Rejoice evermore or Rejoice in the Lord always or How I rejoiced when I heard them say or any suitable hymn

INTRODUCTION

LEADER: The twentieth century was marked by a number of dramatic changes in the liturgy which culminated in the reforms of Vatican II. Spurred on by the call for active participation in the liturgy by Pius X in ‘Tra le sollicitudini’ (among the concerns), the Church began to take steps to reconnect people with her liturgical life. These efforts culminated in the reforms made after Vatican II, which made the liturgy accessible to the laity and involved their participation.

Let us, during this holy half hour, pray for the grace to partake actively in every Eucharistic Celebration and for unity in the diversity of the Universal Catholic Church.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

(Silence for at least 2 mins)

SCRIPTURE READING: PHIL 3:17-4:1

REFLECTION

LEADER: St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians is also a communication to all of us; it is a legacy of faith to the Christian faithful. He calls us - as he called the early Christian communities - to be imitators of Christ. Merely saying that we love Christ and belong to him is not enough. Our whole lives must reflect what we profess, even to embracing the cross. The things of the world - that which distracts us from our true purpose - are enemies which we must avoid. We must be alert to things that masquerade under the guise of goodness. For the strength to avoid what is evil and take up our cross, we turn to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, asking him for the grace of discernment and true discipleship.

HYMN: Our hearts were made for you Lord or any suitable hymn

LEADER: Father we bring before you our petitions in deep faith knowing that you will answer the prayers we make.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the Holy Catholic Church, for Francis our Pope, our bishops, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, who help us to show Christ's tenderness and care to all of God's creation; we pray to the Lord..

2. For the upcoming Advent season, that it will be a time of reflection on the coming of Christ, and that it will be filled with prayer, repentance, and love of God and neighbour; we pray to the Lord...

3. For all the sick and suffering, the homeless, the unemployed, those suffering from addictions and anyone in any kind of distress; we pray to the Lord...

4. For those whose lives are closely linked with ours that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loves us; we pray to the Lord...

5. For people at risk in our world today; we pray to the Lord...

LEADER: Hear, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful people that we make in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

DIVINE PRAISES

CONCLUDING HYMN

Holy Hour of Adoration for the
Solemnity Of Christ The Universal King

(Instructions to Animators: Please appoint different persons to lead the singing, for the reading, and the prayers. Kindly read through the entire prayer sheet to get accustomed to the format and to time yourself.)

Hymn: The Lord is near

LEADER: Opening Prayer (please repeat after me)

Lord Jesus,/ we have come to spend this time with You./ We praise and worship You/ Christ our King./ You are the most powerful,/ awesome,/ magnificent God./ You and You alone/, are worthy of all praise./ Your Name has power,/ Your Name saves,/ Your Name gives confidence and hope./ We bring to You/ ourselves,/ our families,/ our communities,/ our parish/ and our world./ We welcome You as our King/, Our Lord,/ our Saviour./ We place all our hope/ and trust,/ in You,/ so that Your Kingdom of peace,/ and love,/ and justice,/ may flourish./ Amen!

LEADER: Let us listen to a reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 26: 26-27:

“While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”... the end of the reading

LEADER: At the Last Supper with the disciples, Our Lord repeated four things which he had done on other occasions i.e. when he fed the people with the loaves and fish. He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it. This was like his signature because the disciples on the way to Emmaus recognised the resurrected Lord with his action of taking, blessing, breaking and giving.

Today, as we sit in prayer before Jesus, we reflect on these four words and how we can draw inspiration from them for our daily lives.

Applying “take” to our lives, we don’t mean grab, or steal. Instead, we’re using “take” in this way: We accept, we receive good gifts that are offered to us. We’re all good takers. We’re born that way. Conceived and nourished in

our mother's womb, many of us continue to receive the protection and love of our parents and guardians throughout childhood. We take an education. We take a job or career and many of us take a life partner, a spouse. All these are good gifts that we willingly receive.

To 'take' means to receive from the Lord's goodness. Because everything comes from God. Even Jesus the King was constantly taking, borrowing. Nothing was his own. The manger where he was born. The tomb where he was laid. The room for the last supper. The fish and loaves to feed the thousands. This was the paradox of his power. He lived on what he took.

As disciples of Jesus, we too are called to use what we receive because it belongs to God – our life, our family, our talents, our strengths, our weaknesses. Moreover we must realise that we too are taken from our sinful situations and used for God's greater glory.

Let us spend a few minutes in silent reflection as we call to mind everything that we receive from the goodness of God... (*Pause for at least 4 minutes*)

LEADER: (please repeat after me) Lord/ we take so many things from you/We take/ so that we can live better lives/we take from the world of nature/we take from our family and friends/ we take from our relationships/we take/ and we learn to live/Bless our taking/ so that we can enjoy the richness /of knowing You as our Lord and Master Amen/.

Hymn: All things bright and beautiful

LEADER: Next, we bless. In the New Testament, where Jesus blesses bread, he gives thanks to God for the bread. Having a thankful spirit, an attitude of gratitude, is one key to becoming a better giver. How are blessings given? Blessings in the Bible are spoken. They're verbalized. There are two meanings of the phrase: "to bless". One is ascending/upward: i.e. to praise and thank. The other meaning is descending/ downward: i.e. to give blessings. Jesus meant the former understanding. When we bless the Lord, we mean that we praise and thank God.

Saying a 'thank you' means giving a blessing. It means that you are appreciating the giver. Jesus by blessing God was praising and thanking God. And indeed it is important to give praise and thanks to God for everything that we receive from him. We bless people when we speak words of comfort, words of faith, and words of thanks, to all who help us. The

Eucharist is thanksgiving. So every time we celebrate the Eucharist we are thanking God for His numerous blessings...

As we sit before the Blessed Sacrament let us call to mind everything that we are grateful for as we thank God and also appreciate the people who bring us joy...*(Pause for at least 4 minutes)*

LEADER: Let us thank and praise the Lord for His numerous blessings on us. Our response is: Thank you lord for all you've done, things both great and small *(can be sung)*

1. For the Holy Father, the Bishops, Priests and Religious, for those who impart the faith, for those who bring us closer to God; Let us thank the Lord...

2. For the gift of our baptism, for the church to which we belong, for the Eucharist, for the priests, the religious, the animators, those who serve in the various ministries of our parish; Let us thank the Lord...

3. For the gift of life, for the joys of family, for the comfort of a roof over our heads, for the company of friends, for the fulfilment of an occupation; Let us thank the Lord...

4. For the water, for the food, for the refreshment and entertainment, for the transportation, for those who serve in public office, for those who clean our streets; Let us thank the Lord...

5. For all the comforts we have, for the care and protection we enjoy, for information and communication, for the health we enjoy; Let us thank the Lord...

6. For the many things that we are blessed with and fail to remember; Let us thank the Lord...

Hymn: What thanks O Lord, can I render Thee

LEADER: Next, we break. When we think of Jesus breaking bread, we visualize what was 'whole' being torn apart. How then does being broken apply to us?

Breaking is our willingness to move beyond self-interest. To break is to offer ourselves, to sacrifice ourselves for others. The body of Jesus was broken for others.

Breaking is not all dire, hard sacrifice however. With breaking comes restoration. When we share the broken bread in the Eucharistic meal, we

proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection, until he comes in glory. Spiritually joined in Christ, we are broken for others, to be raised to a new life that we may share in Christ's glory. We offer our own brokenness with the bread that is broken.

When we come to the Eucharist, when we share fellowship, when we pray with each other, when we use our gifts and talents to help others and when we break off part of our incomes as our offering to the Church we are breaking ourselves for God's greater glory. And broken as we are, we can offer ourselves in service for the needs of others who are broken around us.

Let us reflect for a while on our own brokenness which we offer to the Lord to make us whole... *(Pause for 4 minutes)*

LEADER: (Please repeat after me): Lord God/ we offer you/ the brokenness of our existence/the pain we experience/ in betrayal/in taunts and teasing/in a breakdown of a relationship/in indifferent health/ in difficult situations/ in doubt and abandonment/. We know Lord/that You will never abandon us/instead you share/ the yoke of our burdens with us/Help us rise /to a better future in Your name. Amen/

HYMN: Have thine own way Lord

LEADER: And, finally, we give. When we give, we become imitators of God, for God is the greatest giver.

Giving completes this four-word pattern of life. The take-bless-break-give pattern starts with taking. But in order for me to take, someone else first has to give. And giving is something that we must do at all times. Giving of our time, our resources, our listening ear, our helpful hand, because the more we give the more graces we receive as God loves a cheerful giver! And Jesus constantly spoke of giving oneself in service, reaching out in love for whatsoever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters, we are doing it for God.

Let us spend a few minutes reflecting on what we can give, as disciples of Jesus... *(Pause for 4 minutes)*

As we offer what we would like to give, our response is: Bless us O lord.

1. Lord, we offer our helping hands, our listening ears, our concerned voices, our broken bodies...

2. Lord, we offer our time, our talents, our resources, our readiness to be of service...

3. Lord, we offer our ideas, our initiatives, our goodwill, our energies and enthusiasm...

4. Lord, we offer our knowledge, our information, our skills, our desires and our hopes....

Hymn: I give my hands

LEADER: (*Alone*) Lord Jesus, we are your body in the world and just as you took the Bread, blessed it and broke it and then gave it, you do the same with every true disciple. First, you take us from our sinful situations and then you bless us - filling us with your Holy Spirit. You then take our broken bodies and sanctify us all, giving us to the needy as your servants. For this, we gladly offer you ourselves. Amen.

BENEDICTION

DIVINE PRAISES

CONCLUDING HYMN: Jesus Is The Joy

December 5: First Friday Holy Half Hour,
**The Lord is my
Light & my Salvation** (Ps 27:1, 4)

HYMN: Wake up O People, Rise or any suitable hymn

INTRODUCTION

LEADER: Advent is a time of preparation, waiting and hope. It is a time when we are called to draw close to God who became flesh and lived with us. How do we open ourselves to God's presence? How do we find him and listen to his voice through the noise and frenzy that surround us? In our moments of silence, before the Blessed Sacrament, we ask Jesus to remind us of the journey we are called to make and the work that he would have us do to bring about a kingdom where injustice and suffering have no place. Our hearts will be made strong and we will find courage in faith, for we have seen that God's promises are always true.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

(Silence for at least 2 mins)

SCRIPTURE READING: IS 29:17-24

REFLECTION

LEADER: The reading from Isaiah calls us to a transformation of our hearts. The Eucharist, too, leads us to an inner transformation. When we participate actively in the Eucharist we move into a wonderful space where human logic doesn't always apply.

HYMN: Change my heart O Lord or any suitable hymn

LEADER: Father, we place these petitions before you in deep faith.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the Holy Catholic Church, for Francis our Pope, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons; we pray to the Lord...
2. For the people of India, and of all nations, that we may be guided in the ways of justice and peace; that we honour one another and serve the common good; we pray to the Lord...

3. That the season of Advent, for us, will be filled with prayer, repentance, and love for God and neighbour; we pray to the Lord...

4. For our families, that we may truly be beacons of transforming light to each other and empower each other to live holy lives; we pray to the Lord...

LEADER: Hear, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful people as we strive to be shining examples of hope and love to all we meet. Amen

BENEDICTION

DIVINE PRAISES

CONCLUDING HYMN

