

A LITANY
FOR USE FOLLOWING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT OR ABUSE
BY A CHURCH WORKER OR IN A CHURCH COMMUNITY

Notes

1. Following the disclosure of sexual misconduct or abuse by a church worker, not only the individual offended against, but also the communities of the survivor and the offender have pastoral needs which may call for appropriate liturgical resources. For example, in the early stages of the community's journey, feelings of hurt, anger, and shock must be recognised and given expression. The community's dependence on God for present help and future healing needs to be affirmed. This litany is intended for use at this stage. It is for the church community rather than for an individual. In *A Prayer Book for Australia*, additional resources which may be helpful can be found in prayers 26-28 on pages 209-210, and in the blessing on page 221.

2. This litany is intended for use in a formal setting, either as part of a larger liturgical action or as an occasional prayer at a gathering such as a synod or other church meeting.

Eternal Majesty, Ruler of all things,
have mercy on us.

Living Word, Light in our darkness,
have mercy on us.

Holy Wisdom, Teacher of truth,
have mercy on us.

Holy and blessed Trinity, one God,
have mercy on us.

In these days of anger and unanswered questions,
have mercy on us.

In the pain of broken trust and shattered lives,
have mercy on us.

In our compassion for all who are suffering,
have mercy on us.

In our grief for all that has been lost,
have mercy on us.

From the abuse of power
and exploitation in relationships,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From being too slow to recognise sin
and the damage it does,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From the habits of manipulation and co-ercion
that distort our common life,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From the paralysis of denial and fear,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From being too quick to attribute blame
or demand forgiveness,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From believing ourselves safe
through anything other than your grace,
Good Lord, deliver us.

For survivors of sexual misconduct and abuse
seeking courage and healing,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For counsellors and advisors
listening and guiding,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For leaders of the church
discerning how best to care for individuals and communities,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For church and community members
offering compassion and support,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have harmed others
by their actions or their inaction,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who live with painful memories,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are searching for healing and hope,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For courage to resist demonising and dehumanising others,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For wisdom in working for a future of justice and integrity,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For honesty and accountability in all our relationships,
Lord, hear our prayer.

For grace to change and be changed as you forgive us,
Lord, hear our prayer.

And now as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

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