

Dear Fathers,

Following the publication by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse on the Catholic Church, I would ask you and all in your parish communities to join with me in prayer for the following intentions:

For the survivors of Abuse - that they may find effective support and true healing for the sufferings they have experienced.

On behalf of the whole Church in reparation for sins against the vulnerable and young, especially those perpetrated by clergy and others in a position of trust.

For the Safeguarding Commission of our Diocese - in thanksgiving for their dedication and commitment to all in our community who are vulnerable.

For the Safeguarding Representatives in our Parishes - in thanksgiving for their work to support our parish communities in the continued building of a culture of safeguarding.

For the Bishops of England & Wales - that the lessons that have been learned as a result of the Inquiry will bear fruit and that they may continue to grow in their openness and listening to those who are survivors.

For the Priests and Deacons of the Diocese - in thanksgiving for their continuing dedication to the proclamation of the Gospel and the service of all.

For the whole Church - that our communities will always be places of safety, in which all will truly experience the love and power of the Gospel Message.

The prayers provided in 'Caring Safely for Others' would be appropriate for use as closing prayers for these intercessions:

Heavenly Father, who loves and cares for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable, we entrust to you the lives of the many children and vulnerable adults who have sexually abused and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed. Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for so many broken lives.

We pray that within their communities and families they may find understanding and support so that with the help of your grace their wounds may be healed and they may again know peace.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who shared our weakness in all things but sin, and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

or

Heavenly Father, since your mercy has been revealed in the tenderness of your Son Jesus Christ, we said to his disciples: "Let the little children come to me", we pray that your Church may be a secure home where all children and vulnerable adults are brought closer to your beloved Son.

May all those who have been abused physically, emotionally and sexually by your ministers, be respected and accompanied by tangible gestures of justice and reparation so that they may feel healed with the balm of your compassion.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On the morning of Friday 20th November, I shall be offering Mass 'For Reconciliation' (Roman Missal, p.1334) and using one of the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation (Roman Missal, p788), in reparation for the sins of abuse in the Church. I would ask you, if possible, to celebrate that day this same Mass for this same intention.

May I also ask your prayers for the meeting of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, taking place next week, during which much time will be given to discussion of the IICSA Report and its recommendations.