

National Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse 2024

Intercessions

The process of dealing with allegations, investigations and, if needed, further action can be long and complex. It can feel to those most closely involved — the victim-survivor, the person against whom allegations have been made and people in the affected parishes, that they are in a state of limbo with little happening, often for considerable periods of time.

The Intercessions below are offered to support communities in this time of waiting. They are templates that can be used as they are or adapted to suit the needs of the parish, neighbouring communities or the wider diocese.

At the stage of the temporary removal from ministry

Prayer for the parish

We pray for our parish (or the parish of...)

Pause

May we (they) be a supportive and loving community — holding each other's anger, frustration and disbelief in the love of Christ which is big enough to hold all the negative emotions that swirl around us (them).

God of compassion and truth;
Hear our prayer.

Prayer for a priest on temporary removal from ministry

We pray for Fr

Pause

May this be a time of honest reflection so that the truth may be quickly established and the process be as open and transparent as possible.
May he feel supported by our love and prayer.

God of compassion and truth;
Hear our prayer.

Prayer for those who have brought the allegations

We pray for those who have brought the allegations.

Pause

May they share their testimony with those who also seek truth and justice, and find trust and support as they offer themselves and their accounts to the scrutiny of others.
May they feel supported by our love and prayer.

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www.cbcew.org.uk/prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse-2024

God of compassion and truth;
Hear our prayer.

Prayer for those conducting the investigations.

We pray for those who are conducting the investigations.

Pause

May they seek truth and justice with integrity and transparency,
over the weeks and months ahead.

God of compassion and truth;
Hear our prayer.

Prayer when allegations have been unfounded or malicious and the priest (or other) returns to active ministry

We pray for Name...

Pause

May they feel welcomed and supported as they return to active ministry among us.

May this time prove to have been one of gaining of deeper self-knowledge, insight and wisdom,
so that their ministry is infused with a deeper desire to help our community
to be one of trust and safety for everyone.

God of compassion and truth;
Hear our prayer.

At the stage of conviction

For the victim-survivors

We pray for those who came forward and spoke of the suffering they endured.

Pause

May they find solace in having their painful testimonies heard and believed,
and receive the loving support they need
as they embark on the next stage of their journey towards hope and healing.

God of justice and healing;
Hear our prayer.

For the person convicted

We pray for Name...

Pause

May they acknowledge the pain that their victims have suffered,
and find a path to repentance and healing.

God of justice and healing;
Hear our prayer.

Prayer for the parish

We pray for our parish.

Pause

May we come together and support each other in our sorrow and confusion.

May what we have learnt over the last months (years)
renew our determination to be a community in which all are safe
and able to flourish as the daughters and sons of God.

God of justice and healing;
Hear our prayer.

For those who involved in the investigation

We pray for those who conducted the investigation.

Pause

May they find consolation in their role of bringing justice —
and healing of painful memories that remain from their investigations.

God of justice and healing;
Hear our prayer.

General prayer for a culture of openness and loving support for survivors of abuse.

We pray for those who have come forward to speak of the abuse they have suffered,
and for those who are not yet able to.

Pause

May the Spirit help us to offer a response that is rooted in the love of Christ
and to be a community in which they can continue to feel believed and safe
as the search for truth and justice unfolds.

God of justice and healing;
Hear our prayer.