

Intercessions

The subject of abuse is so big and so painful that it is impossible to hold it all in our minds and hearts at once. It can be helpful to focus on a particular intention each day. Here is a selection that you might like to use around the Day of Prayer for Survivors of Abuse.

A simple prayer is offered – but feel free to use your own way of prayer: a decade of the Rosary – a time of silence – or a short visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

If prayed with others, simply change I to we, etc

Day 1

Survivors and their families

*God of Love,
I hold in my heart and place into your hands,
those who have experienced abuse —
especially those whose abuse was associated with the Church
that should have cared and nurtured them.*

*I pray for those for whom the abuse is current —
for those for whom it is a memory that still brings fear and shame —
for those looking ahead to a more hopeful future.*

*I pray also for their families
who may not have known or realised
the extent and effect of the abuse on their loved one
and who are left feeling betrayed and helpless to help.*

In the name of Jesus...

Day 2

Those who support survivors

*God of Love,
I hold in my heart and place into your hands, those who support survivors:
Safeguarding coordinators and counsellors,
And all who create a safe space in which they can find healing.*

Day 3

Communities and Clergy who have been affected

God of Love,

*I hold in my heart and place into your hands
those communities who have been affected by revelations of abuse —
whether current or in the past:
for the sense of disbelief, of betrayal, of deep sorrow, or shame
that this happened in their midst.*

*I pray for members of the clergy and pastoral workers
whose trust in someone they respected and worked with has been broken.*

*I hold in prayer also those priests, deacons, teachers and other workers
in Church settings, who have had unproven allegations made against them*

Day 4

For Perpetrators

God of Love,

*I hold in my heart and place into your hands
those who have given way to temptation –
who have groomed and abused children and vulnerable adults.
I pray that they acknowledge the harm that they have done,
that they accept justice and the help they need
to ensure that they cause no further harm.*

Day 5

For those whose relationship with the Church is damaged

God of Love,

*I hold in my heart and place into your hands
those who want to leave the Church because of the abuse scandals —
and for those who already have.*

I pray for those who have lost hope that things will or can change.

Day 6

For those who struggle with the reality of the abuse crisis

*God of Love,
I hold in my heart and place into your hands
those who deny that abuse has happened within the Church —
who cannot believe that people who have done much good
can also have caused such harm.*

*I pray for those who acknowledge that it has happened
but who just want to move on
without facing the need for reconciliation and healing
of those who suffered the abuse.*

Day 7

For those who investigate allegations

*God of Love,
I hold in my heart and place into your hands
those who investigate allegations of abuse —
those who gather evidence in order to bring justice to those who have been harmed –
those whose work behind the scenes helps to change the culture in our society
and, especially, in our Church
and who work to create hope for the future.*

Prepared by the *Isaiah Journey* Working Group of the Bishops' Conference © 2023 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales.
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The Isaiah Journey
seeking truth | bringing hope | finding healing