



16 DAYS
OF
PRAYER



against
Gender based
Violence

November 25 - December 10

*Prayers adapted from the Anglican diocese of Melbourne initiative





16 DAYS

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a global campaign led annually by UN Women. It runs every year from 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day).

During the 16 Days of Activism, communities around the world join the call to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.



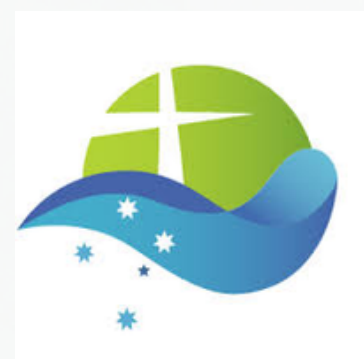
1

NOVEMBER 25

PRAYER FOR RESPECT
FOR ALL

Heavenly Father,
You have called us to be salt and light in the
world- to be present in the community as
ambassadors for Christ.
We pray that our clergy, teachers and staff not
only have the confidence to live out our
respectful relationships policies, but be
champions of justice and love in the wider
community. Please fill us with your Holy Spirit to
carry out this mission in your strength.

Amen





NOVEMBER 26

A PRAYER FOR OUR LEADERS

Heavenly Father,
You have called us to be salt and light in the world – to be present in the community as ambassadors for Christ. We pray that our clergy, teachers and staff would not only have the confidence to live out our respectful relationships policies, but be champions of justice and love in the wider community. Please fill us with your Holy Spirit, to carry out this mission in your strength.
Amen.





NOVEMBER 27

A PRAYER FOR ROLE MODELS

Lord Jesus,

You modeled the right way to treat people.

People from all classes and genders and ages were treated by you with respect. Because of the way you treated the children who crowded around you, the women like Mary, Martha, the woman at the well, the woman others wanted to stone to death, because of your example of love and grace and respect, we understand the right way to treat all people. No one was a 'mere woman', 'just a kid', or 'hopeless' to you.

You had contempt for no one.

Help us who are adults to model the same gracious respect to all others, regardless of race, age or gender so that today's young people in Australia will grow up seeing and understanding right behaviour and values towards others.

May we be role models to them, and together with them create a better society for all.

Amen.





4

NOVEMBER 28

A PRAYER FOR
RELATIONSHIPS WITH
OTHERS

God of relationship,
Whose economy is unconditional love, we give thanks
for connection with others.
May our relationships live your way, in which all is gift,
never entitlement.

Through Jesus Christ, the gospel of grace.
Amen.





NOVEMBER 29

A SURVIVOR'S PRAYER

Jesus knows we are broken by violence, broken by words and actions designed to destroy the sacred bond between people.

Knowing such violence, we seek refuge in your grace. After broken hearts, broken bodies, broken dreams, and broken promises, we remember you became broken for us to bring wholeness to our lives.

Restore what is broken in our lives so that we may be whole, in our hearts and minds, whole in our bodies and our souls.

Compassionate and loving God we bring to you what is broken so that you may heal us.

Amen.





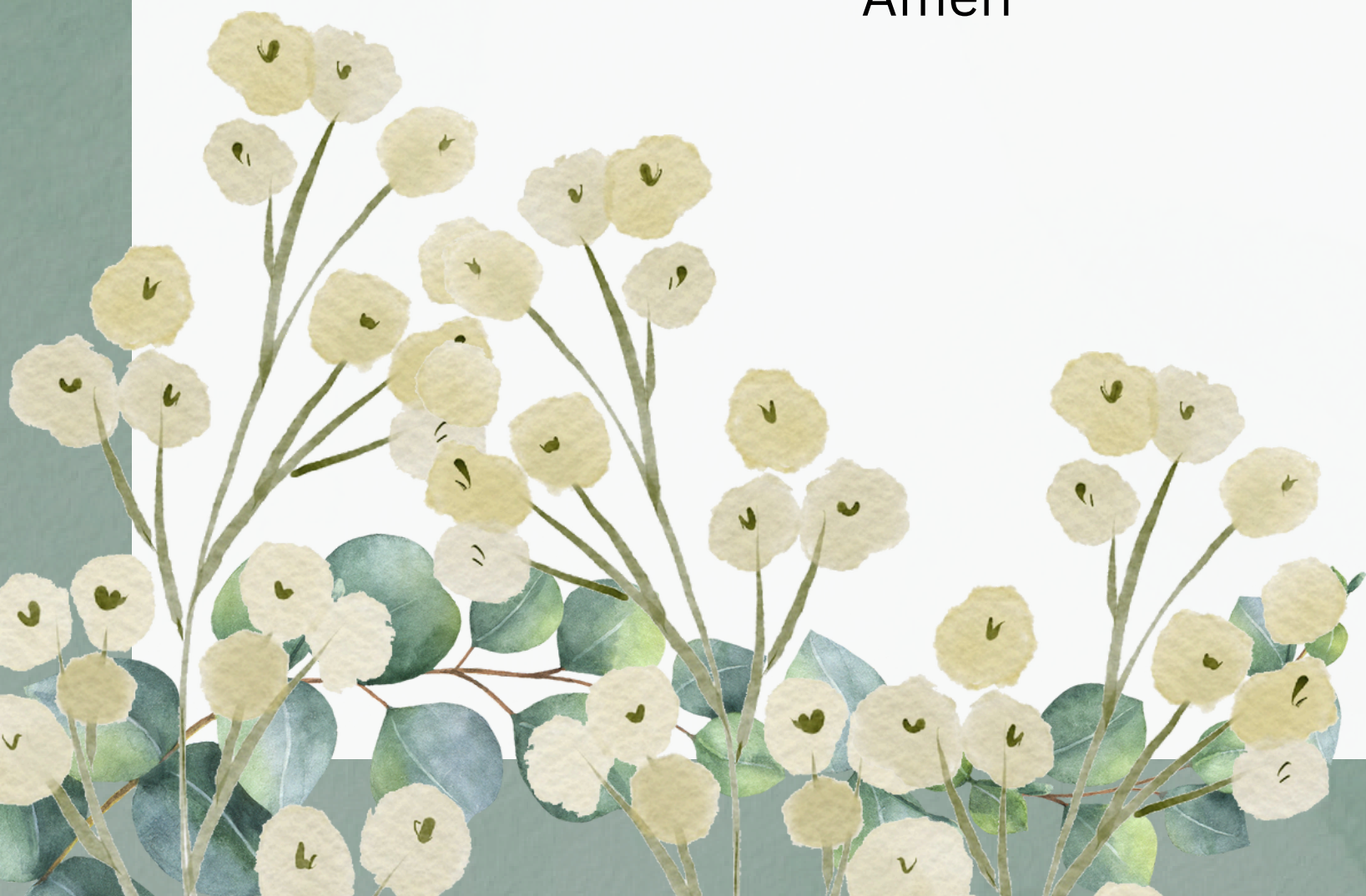
DECEMBER 1

A PRAYER FOR
PERPETRATORS

Holy and loving God,
By your love and mercy, transform the perpetrators
of violence against women. Grant them eyes of
compassion to see the suffering of their victims, ears
of obedience to hear your calls to act with justice and
mercy, and a penitent heart willing to change. As they
pursue change, may they have the courage to seek
appropriate support and counsel, and may they
receive the assistance they need.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen





7

DECEMBER 2

A PRAYER FOR SUPPORT SERVICES

God our refuge,

We pray for all shelters and support services which offer safety and care to women who survive violence.

Bless their work and staff so that through their assistance, those who have been hurt and abused may know your healing and salvation. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen





DECEMBER 3

A PRAYER FOR SAFE
PARISHES AND
SCHOOLS

Creator God,

We praise you for loving us into being: each and everyone of us made in your image. Loving Jesus, as your body may our churches and schools be safe and life-giving communities of faith for all people, including women and children.

Places where all people including women and children, can grow and thrive and not be harmed or limited. Help us to love as you have loved us. Spirit of truth open our eyes and hearts to where our practices or responses may harm or limit people including women and children. Enable us to make the changes needed.

Come Lord Jesus.





DECEMBER 4

A PRAYER FOR PARISHES AND FAITH COMMUNITIES

Heavenly Father,

We pray for your love and guidance for all parishes and faith communities as we work to prevent violence against women. We pray that you grant us strength in making our places of worship safe places of refuge and comfort. We pray that you enable and equip us in our work, bringing us together to train our people and assist us in finding the resources to succeed.

We pray that our faith leaders have the strength and courage to take action in providing safe spaces for women at risk. We pray that we are brave in asking questions and careful in taking action. In the name of Christ.

Amen





10

DECEMBER 5

PRAYER FOR
GOVERNMENT

Most gracious God, ruler of the nations,
We pray for all houses of our parliaments, federal and
Victorian. We pray for our Prime Minister and Premier,
and all members of the Government and opposition.
May they be directed by your Holy Spirit in their work
and decisions, words and action, wisdom and skill,
imagination and energy.

May they raise awareness of the violence perpetrated
against women in homes and public spaces, and lead
by example, education, and legislation to protect
women and transform the culture of our society, so
that all homes, environments, and communities may
be places of safety for all people.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen





11

DECEMBER 6

A PRAYER FOR WOMEN

God our Parent,

We thank you for your love especially reflected through our mothers and sisters – the women. We pray for those women whose voice is suppressed under patriarchal pressures, in the four-walls of the house, and under the burden of relationships. God our Healer, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ knew that the woman was a victim of violence and abuse in a patriarchal society, so he supported her, recognized her voice, and uplifted her.

As his followers, please give us the willingness to support our sisters who neither can hide the pain nor can treat the wound caused by cruelty. Enable us to hear their cry and take steps to end the violence at home and in workplaces. God of Grace, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Amen





12

DECEMBER 7

A PRAYER FOR WOMEN FACING MORE BARRIERS

Gracious and loving God,
From whom all peace, all comfort and all goodwill
flows, pour down your Holy Spirit upon our
indigenous, migrant, refugee and disabled sisters.
By your blessing, we pray that all violence, all harm
and all prejudice be removed from their lives and that
their access to essential support services be opened
and sustained that we, with them, may live in peace
and harmony.

We pray this through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.





13

DECEMBER 5

A PRAYER FOR LANGUAGE

In the moments after another woman is violated, we have a fresh, yet timeless, tale to report.

Lord help us as storytellers to share a different story.

Of some mother's son, who lurked in the shadows waiting... who let his eyes, then his hands, wander where they were not welcome, who bided his time, preying on the unwary. Isn't this the story that needs to be told, Lord?

Pray for us all, sharing this, on paper, on screen, lips to ears. Pray for us to focus on the silent sinner who quietly hides behind the victim's wail.

Amen.





14

DECEMBER 8

A PRAYER FOR CONVICTION

Loving God,
You have created all people in your image. And you
sent your Son to rescue them all. By your Spirit,
search our hearts and test our thoughts. Show us our
systems and structures, our attitudes and actions
that must change. So that our homes, churches, and
communities are places where women flourish. And
are loved, respected, treasured, and safe. In the name
of Jesus, we pray.

Amen





15

DECEMBER 9

A PRAYER FOR THE
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY
VIOLENCE WORKING
GROUP

Life giving God,

We ask you to bless abundantly the work of the
Domestic and Family Violence Working Group of St
Mary of the Cross Parish.

Please give grace, wisdom and understanding to its
members as they work towards raising awareness of
family violence and responding to its impacts model
policy and pastoral care framework for responding to
family violence.

May they work together in unity as they seek to make
our parishes and institutions safe places for women
and children, so that your church reflects your
kingdom of love, justice and compassion. Through
Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour.

Amen



16 DECEMBER 10

PRAYER OF LAMENT FOR
LIVES LOST

Almighty God,
We cry out to you in grief for all the lives lost to family violence. We pray for the children left motherless, for the mothers who are bereft, for the grandparents, other family and friends who mourn.
We pray too, for the perpetrators of violence. Change us, O Lord, from people who are indifferent, into people who care enough to act. Change us, O Lord, from people who feel powerless into people who are empowered.
Change us, O Lord, into a people that cares for those whose brokenness lead them to commit acts of violence. Make us whole, and fill our hearts with your peace.
Amen



INTERFAITH STATEMENT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Multifaith communities ban together to deal with issue of domestic violence

The Faith Communities Council of Victoria – comprised of the Baha'i Community of Victoria, Brahma Kumaris Australia, Buddhist Council of Victoria, Hindu Council of Australia (Victoria), Islamic Council of Victoria, Jain Council of Victoria, Jewish Community Council of Victoria, Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria and Victorian Council of Churches – has issued a statement on the prevention of family violence and violence against women, as follows:

The rate of women killed by an intimate partner in Australia increased by nearly 30% in 2022-23, compared to the previous year. In 2024, one woman is violently killed in Australia every four days. As faith community leaders, we oppose family violence and violence against women in all its forms, and call upon people of faith to play a role in its elimination.

Violence is not just physical, it can be psychological, emotional, sexual, financial or spiritual. The roots are abuse of power and the control of one person over another. Violence against women and their children takes a profound and long-term toll on women and children's health and wellbeing, on families and communities, and on society as a whole. It is a violation of basic human rights that affects people in all social, economic, racial, religious and ethnic groups.

Across our faith traditions, we declare:

- Sacred texts, scriptures and cultural traditions should not be used as a way to justify or excuse violence against women.
- We commit ourselves to changing community attitudes that accept violence toward women. We undertake a journey together to raise awareness in our communities and to stop violence against women before it occurs.
- We stand against all forms of violence and discrimination. We see preventing family violence and violence against women as a key entry point for addressing all forms of violence and promoting human rights.

- Every human being should be seen as valued, important and equal. To live in a world where our families and communities are free and safe from violence, we must treat all individuals – women, men, girls and boys – with dignity, equality and respect.

- Promoting equality and respect in our communities benefits us all and strengthens our communities.

- A strong community is one where we can all contribute and participate equally.

- Our faiths affirm that love, respect, equality and living well together are goals to aim for.

We strongly advocate for a time when every religious and spiritual community can fully embrace their unique and vital role to provide prevention education, to speak out with moral authority against all forms of violence, and to provide a safe space for those seeking support when impacted by family violence.

For guidance on how to support families and victim survivors go to faithsafe.org.au. Another useful resource developed by women of different faiths in Canada to deal with domestic and family violence is the recently launched Faith Leaders on the Front Line: Responding to Domestic Violence in Our Communities. It is aimed particularly at faith leaders to help them better handle the complexities of domestic and family violence.



Do you need support?

The following Domestic and Family Violence support services are available:

1800 RESPECT National Helpline:

1800 737 732

Women's Crisis Line:

1800 811 811

Men's Referral Service:

1300 766 491

Lifeline (24 hour crisis line):

131 114

13 YARN (Aboriginal Mob):

13 92 76

Emergency: 000

