

Liturgical Material for use at Historic Centenary Events in Parishes or Local Communities

Introduction

We have gathered here as a community to commemorate ... , to pray for ... *the healing of past hurts/the life of our community/the future of our country*, to celebrate our common heritage, and to seek God's guidance and hope for the future.

Lord God our Creator,
you call your faithful people to advance your Kingdom in this world.
Heal our divisions, unite us in your name,
and draw us closer together in proclaiming your love and peace
in this community/in our country and in the world.
We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace,
even Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Matthew 5: 43-48

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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Prayers

Almighty God, in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ you have shown us the way of forgiveness and love: Help us, despite our wounded history, to celebrate all that is good and true in our common life and to affirm and acknowledge our common heritage, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God,
healer of the broken and reconciler of the divided,
we pray for the healing of our wounded history,
and for thanksgiving for the peace and security we currently enjoy.
Bless the work of all who seek to reconcile past divisions
and all who dedicate themselves to the causes of justice and peace in our land.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of all power and might,
we pray for this country, for all who are called to the responsibility of government,
and for all who shape our society.
May they be guided by your Holy Spirit
and granted the gifts of wisdom, understanding and right judgement in all things,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving

God of reconciling love, we give you thanks:
for the rich diversity of cultures and traditions in our *country/community/parish*.
we give you thanks O Lord.

for those who safeguard our freedom and maintain peace and safety,
we give you thanks O Lord.

for the memory of all who have worked for reconciliation and for those who continue
to do so today,
we give you thanks O Lord.

for the times when your Kingdom of love is seen at work in the nations of the world,
we give you thanks O Lord.

Blessing

May the God of peace bless our memories, heal our divisions,
and lead us into his light and love,
and the blessing

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