

## A Diocesan Prayer of the Faithful for Safeguarding Sunday

For all victims and survivors of any kind of abuse or neglect, their families and friends: and for all who work or volunteer to promote our culture of safeguarding the young and the vulnerable across the many parish communities which together make up our One Diocesan Family.

### A prayer for victims, survivors, and all those with lived experience of abuse

Dear God,

We pray for all those who have suffered hurt and harm within the family of the Church: whether they are known to us or not, we know that you know them by name.

For those who feel trapped, grant them a way of escape.

For those in pain, bring comfort and healing,

For those who seek justice, may they have courage and strength.

As the Church we are one body and if one part suffers, every part suffers with it.

Give to all who suffer, people who will listen, support, and walk with them.

Amen

### A Survivor's Prayer

(Written by Cerys Morgan, a victim and survivor of church-based abuse.)

Father,

Thank you that as your Church you entrust to us your work here on earth.

We pray that through your Spirit, you will empower us to do the right thing for the benefit of those suffering abuse and injustice.

That we will not fear to be bringers of your justice.

That we will be your voice for those whose voices are silenced.

That when your light shines into dark areas of abuse we will have courage as your representatives, to face our fears, and to show forth your heart of compassion and justice, and to speak your words of life and freedom into broken hearts.

Teach us as a Church to be your body, fully knitted together and working in unity. To care for one another with extra care and dignity.

Enable us to be instruments of your love, that chains will be broken and broken hearts restored.

That we will teach everyone how precious they are to you.

That they will know you are God who sees and feels their pain.

We pray that through your Spirit and your Church fully trusting in your word, victims will become victors, and their mess become a precious message to your love and restoration in their lives.

We ask this in your name and for your glory.

Amen

### A prayer for those working or volunteering in Safeguarding

Dear God,

We pray for all those who serve in a Safeguarding role within our Church.

We especially pray for our Diocesan Safeguarding Team and Parish Safeguarding Representatives.

Thank you for their willingness and the time they give to fulfil this important task.

Give them your wisdom, discernment, and strength.  
Help us support them in their roles, remember them in our prayers, and  
respond to their requests and advice so that we might be a safer place for  
everyone.  
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Amen

#### A prayer for our Church leaders

Dear God,  
We pray for all those who serve in a position of leadership in our Church.  
We especially pray for Bishop Martin and all our Parish Clergy.  
Thank you for their commitment to serve us in this way.  
As they make decisions, set the culture, and seek to lead us in our worship and  
witness,  
give them wisdom, humility, and courage to follow Jesus' example of servant  
leadership, we pray.

Help us support them in their role, remember them in our prayers, and ensure  
they have others around them who can help, challenge, and encourage them  
so that we might be a safer place for everyone.  
In Jesus' name.  
Amen

#### A Prayer for the Church

Dear God,  
Help us to be a Church that:  
Loves, welcomes, protects.  
Listens, learns, serves.  
Repents, restores, transforms.  
Values, cares, believes.  
God of Justice and compassion, hear our prayer.  
Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray.  
In Jesus' name.  
Amen.

#### A Prayer with Responses

Into the dark places of our world  
Where people are frightened and hungry  
God bring light, bring love  
Into places where people are violent  
Into places where people are fighting  
God bring light, bring love  
Into the places where we feel unsafe  
Into situations that hurt us and scare us  
God bring light, bring love  
We ask our prayers in Jesus' name  
and in the Holy Spirit's power  
Ame