

Let's Be Honest

A Service of Sorrow and Acknowledgement of Abuse

*'A Church that does not listen...
cannot be credible,
especially for the young
who will inevitably turn away
rather than approach.'*

Pope Francis, 3rd October 2018

Gathering and Call to Quiet

Hymn

*You have called us by our name by Bernadette Farrell
or, Song of a young prophet (O, the word of my Lord) by Damian Lundy*

Welcome and Introduction

Opening Prayer

God of endless love,
you sent your Son as our Shepherd
to lead us and safeguard us.
We are sorry for what some of us
did to your children;
treated them cruelly,
especially when they were in need.
We have left them with lifelong hurt;
this was not your plan for them.
Show us the way to justice and wholeness
enfolded in your mercy,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

An Act of Humility and Penitence

For the little ones of our community who have been abused,
sexually, emotional or physically.
Lord, in your mercy. **℟. Hear our prayer.**

For the courage to accept with integrity and honesty
what has happened in our community.
Lord, in your mercy. **℟.**

For a spirit of compassion
that puts an end to acts of abuse to our little ones.
Lord, in your mercy. **℟.**

For the gifts of wisdom and compassion
in those who minister to the hurting ones.
Lord, in your mercy. **℟.**

For a renewal of the love
that protects the most vulnerable people in our care.
Lord, in your mercy. **℟.**

God of strength on whom we lean,
help us to create an atmosphere which allows us
to speak the reality we dare not face,
to establish a safe place
for those who, in their pain, reach out to us,
and a community not afraid of the past,
nor of walking into the future with hope,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Listening to the Word

Gospel

John 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd

and the sheep do not belong to him,

abandons the sheep and runs away

as soon as he sees a wolf coming,

and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;

this is because he is only a hired man

and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection by a Survivor

Meditation of Acknowledgement of Abuse

The Good Shepherd walks with all people in their pain, confusion and isolation.

As a parish/deanery community:

- are we prepared like Christ carry those in pain, confusion and isolation?
- are we the kind of people the abused can trust?
- are we willing to let them talk and feel, so they can break their silence and uncover their secret?

(A Survivor of Abuse will light the Paschal Candle aware that we have answered these questions before God and each other)

Hymn

Eagle's Wings by Michael Joncas

Intercessions

We pray together.

Let us pray for the survivors of abuse;
may they come to know the peace only you can give.

Lord, hear us. **Rx. Lord, graciously hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the families and friends of those abused;
may they open their hearts to the truth and find ways to healing.

Lord, hear us. **Rx.**

Let us pray for all in the church, laity and clergy;
may their shaken faith be restored by Christ their strength and hope.

Lord, hear us. **Rx.**

Let us pray for our community,
may we have the courage to move forward in truth
and see the help we need from each other.

Lord, hear us. **Rx.**

Litany of Hope and Trust

From the Paschal Candle, we light our own candle and prepare to stand in faith with each other, to walk the path of healing and hope;

(Music: What about Us, What about Trust? by P!nk)

When peace is fragile.	Stay with us, Lord.
When tempers are raised.	Stay with us, Lord.
When atrocities occur.	Stay with us, Lord.
When forgiveness is needed.	Stay with us, Lord.
When talks breakdown.	Stay with us, Lord.
When agreements are broken.	Stay with us, Lord.
When darkness weighs upon us	Stay with us, Lord.
When hope seems faint.	Stay with us, Lord.
When burdens feel too heavy.	Stay with us, Lord.
When we are weak.	Stay with us, Lord.
When faith seems difficult.	Stay with us, Lord.

We ask the Risen Lord to walk with us.

For those whose trust has been broken.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who have lost hope.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who suffer.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who are sick and in pain.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who are struggling.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who have been hurt.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who are grieving.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who are depressed.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who feel rejected.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who feel isolated.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who are anxious.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who self-harm.	Walk with them, Lord.
For all who despair.	Walk with them, Lord.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father...

Questions of Hope

- What hope do you have for the future?
- What help do you need?
- What would you like to say to our Bishop?

On the 'Paper of Hope' write your answers and place them at the foot of the Paschal Candle.

(Quiet Music: Crann Na Bpingini by Kila)

Conclusion

Closing Prayer

Father of hope and consolation
be the guardian of all who suffer abuse,
send healing for their wounds.
Deepen our respect
for the dignity of every human life.
Heal the brokenness of all victims of abuse,
and renew the spirit of all who lament this sin,
through Christ our Lord
Amen.

Closing Music

Something inside so strong by Labi Siffre

*'Band aids don't fix bullet holes.
You say sorry just for show.
If you live like that
you live with ghosts.'*

Taylor Swift

If you need someone to talk to, there is someone available.

Safe Spaces

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Telephone: 0300 303 1056 (answerphone available outside of opening times)
Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk
LiveChat/Website: safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Offices

Diocesan Safeguarding Offices can be located using the interactive map on the links page of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) website - contact details will be shown when you click on the relevant area of the map.

<https://www.csas.uk.net/links/>

RASAC (Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre)

National Helpline: 0808 802 9999 (12-2.30 & 7-9.30)

Survivors UK

Male Rape and Sexual Abuse Support
survivorsuk.org

Samaritans

Telephone: 08457 909090
Email: jo@samaritans.org

National Rape Crisis Support

rapecrisis.org.uk

The Survivors Trust

Support, advice and info

Telephone: 0808 801 0818

ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families)

For general enquiries about ACA UK,

send email to: info@acoa.uk
or call us on: 01590 610936

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