

A diocesan/deanery Mass for survivors

A celebration of the Eucharist can be a powerful sign of the response of the local Church. It can provide a safe space for survivors and an opportunity for the community to show its concern. At the heart of the Eucharist is the broken body of an innocent victim which gives life and hope.

The following notes are based on the Mass for Survivors 'Towards Healing and Reconciliation' prepared by the Diocese of Northampton.

Preparation Notes

Readings

The readings of the day should be considered.

If the date chosen allows for other readings to be used (cf. GIRM 374, 376) the following might be used:

1 Peter 5: 5-6	Wrap yourselves in humility.
Psalm 94	O that today you would listen to his voice, harden not your hearts.
Mark 4: 35-39	Jesus calms a storm.

Alternative readings may be found in the *Masses for Various Needs and Occasions: For Reconciliation, For the Sick, For Charity* (Lectionary Volume III). (This is not to suggest that victims/survivors are sick or in need of charity but where the liturgy of the Church has not formally addressed this need these themes may provide helpful starting points.)

Prayers

The following might be considered:

Penitential Act:

Lord Jesus, you stand alongside all who are suffering.
Lord Jesus, you listen to those who cry out to you.
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of betrayal and hurt.

Intercessions: model texts can be found on the website.

<http://www.bishopsconference.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2019/07/DPSA-Intercessions.pdf>

Eucharistic Prayer for use in *Masses for Various Needs and Occasions: IV Jesus went about doing good.*

Prayer: it may be helpful to have a common prayer said by all after Communion. The prayer at the beginning of this resource might be used or an additional example can be found in the Appendix.

Music

In addition to the psalm and parts of the Mass the hymns sung should be familiar. Themes may include: Peace, Healing, God's Love for Us, Jesus's Care for Us, Light.