

Diocese of Peterborough Prayers for Priests

1. O Holy Father, may the torrents of love flowing from the sacred wounds of your divine Son bring forth priests like unto the beloved disciple John who stood at the foot of the cross; priests, who as a pledge of your own most tender love will lovingly give your divine Son to the souls of men.

May your priests be faithful guardians of your Church, as John was of Mary, whom he received into his house. Taught by this loving Mother who suffered so much on Calvary, may they display a mother's care and thoughtfulness towards your children. May they teach souls to enter into close union with you through Mary who, as the Gate of Heaven, is specially the guardian of the treasures of your divine Heart.

Give us priests who are on fire, and who are true children of Mary, priests who will give Jesus to souls with the same tenderness and care with which Mary carried the Little Child of Bethlehem.

Mother of sorrows and of love, out of compassion for your beloved Son, open in our hearts deep wells of love, so that we may console Him and give Him a generation of priests formed in your school and having all the tender thoughtfulness of your own spotless love. Amen.

(St. Therese of Lisieux)

2. O Jesus, eternal Priest,
keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart,
where none may touch them.

Keep unstained their anointed hands,
which daily touch Your Sacred Body.

Keep unsullied their lips,
daily purpled with your Precious Blood.

Keep pure and unearthly their hearts,
sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.

Let Your holy love surround them and
shield them from the world's contagion.

Bless their labors with abundant fruit and
may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here
and in heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.

(St. Therese of Lisieux)

3. Father, I beseech You, direct the hearts and wills of the servants of Your Bride, the Holy Church, unto yourself so that they may follow the poor, bleeding, humble, and gentle Lamb of God on the way of the Cross. Make them angels in the shape of men; for after all, they have to administer and distribute the Body and Blood of Your Only Begotten Son! Amen

(St. Catherine of Siena)

4. O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church: Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit and give power to the words of priests so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord.

Lord, give us holy priests; You Yourself maintain them in holiness. O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests. May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things. I ask You, Jesus, for a special blessing and for light for the priests before whom I will make my confessions throughout my lifetime. Amen.

(Saint Faustina)

5. O Holy Mother of God, pray for the priests your Son has chosen to serve the Church. Help them, by your intercession, to be holy, zealous, and chaste. Make them models of virtue in the service of God's people. Help them be pious in meditation, efficacious in preaching, and zealous in the daily offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Help them administer the Sacraments with love and joy. Amen.

(St. Charles Borromeus)

6. O Mary,
Mother of Jesus Christ and Mother of priests,
accept this title which we bestow on you
to celebrate your motherhood
and to contemplate with you the priesthood
of your Son and of your sons,
O holy Mother of God.

O Mother of Christ,
to the Messiah-priest you gave a body of flesh
through the anointing of the Holy Spirit
for the salvation of the poor and the contrite of heart;
guard priests in your heart and in the Church,
O Mother of the Savior.

O Mother of Faith,

you accompanied to the Temple the Son of Man,
the fulfillment of the promises given to the fathers;
give to the Father for his glory
the priests of your Son,
O Ark of the Covenant.

O Mother of the Church,
in the midst of the disciples in the upper room
you prayed to the Spirit
for the new people and their shepherds;
obtain for the Order of Presbyters
a full measure of gifts,
O Queen of the Apostles.

O Mother of Jesus Christ,
you were with him at the beginning
of his life and mission,
you sought the Master among the crowd,
you stood beside him when he was lifted up from the earth
consumed as the one eternal sacrifice,
and you had John, your son, near at hand;
accept from the beginning those who have been called,
protect their growth,
in their life ministry accompany your sons,
O Mother of Priests.
Amen.

(Pope John Paul II)

7. Lord Jesus, we your people pray to You for our priests. You have given them to us for OUR needs. We pray for them in THEIR needs.

We know that You have made them priests in the likeness of your own priesthood. You have consecrated them, set them aside, anointed them, filled them with the Holy Spirit, appointed them to teach, to preach, to minister, to console, to forgive, and to feed us with Your Body and Blood.

Yet we know, too, that they are one with us and share our human weaknesses. We know too that they are tempted to sin and discouragement, as are we, needing to be ministered to, as do we, to be consoled and forgiven, as do we. Indeed, we thank You for choosing them from among us, so that they understand us as we understand them, suffer with us and rejoice with us, worry with us and trust with us, share our beings, our lives, our faith.

We ask that You give them this day the gift You gave Your chosen ones on the way to Emmaus:

Your presence in their hearts,
Your holiness in their souls,

Your joy in their spirits.

And let them see You face to face in the breaking of the Eucharistic Bread.

We pray to You, O Lord, with Mary, the mother of priests, for Your priests and for ours.
Amen

(John Cardinal O'Connor)

8. O Almighty, Eternal God, look upon the Face of your Son and for love of him, who is the Eternal High Priest, have pity on your priests. Remember, O most compassionate God, that they are but weak and frail human beings. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is in them by the imposition of the bishop's hands. Keep them close to you, lest the enemy prevails against them, so that they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

(Richard James Cardinal Cushing)

9. O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them.

In their sorrows, strengthen them.

In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified and show them that they are needed by the Church;

they are needed by souls;

they are needed for the work of redemption.

O lovely Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your sons who are close to you because of their priestly ordination and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much.

Be their comfort;

be their joy;

be their strength;

and especially help them to live and defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy.

Amen.

(John Joseph Cardinal Carberry)

10. Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest,

Bless our priests who act in your place:

who teach us your holy ways;

who forgive us our sins;

and who feed us with your Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

Give your priests a deep faith, a firm hope,
and a burning love for your people.
Strengthen them in their joys and sorrows
as they seek to follow You.

From among us, You have called some to be priests.
Help them to embrace their vocation,
and help us to respect and support them
as they find fulfillment in doing your will.

We pray to You, Lord Jesus, with confidence
that you will hear our prayer. Amen.

(Vocations Office, Diocese of Peterborough)

11. Eternal God,
please bless our priests
who represent you on this earth.
Make them more greatly aware of the grace
that you pour out through them
when they minister the sacraments,
and help them to fall more deeply in love with You
after each and every Mass that they celebrate.
Please strengthen our priests,
who shepherd your flock,
when they are in doubt of their faith
that they may be examples of your Truth
and guide us always on the path to You.
We ask these things of You our Eternal Priest.
Amen.

12. Most gracious Heavenly Father,
We thank you for our faithful priests and bishops, whose spiritual fatherhood and
example of fidelity, self-sacrifice, and devotion is so vital to the faith of your people.

May our spiritual fathers be guided by the examples of Saints Peter and Paul, all the
Apostles and their saintly successors. Give them valiant faith in the face of confusion and
conflict, hope in time of trouble and sorrow, and steadfast love for you, for their families,
and for all your people throughout the world. May the light of your Truth shine through
their lives and their good works.

Assist all spiritual fathers, that through your Grace they may steadily grow in holiness
and in knowledge and understanding of your Truth. May they generously impart this

knowledge to those who rely on them.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

13. Lord Jesus, Chief Shepherd of the flock, we pray that in the great love and mercy of your Sacred Heart you attend to all the needs of your priest-shepherds throughout the world. We ask that you draw back to your Heart all those priests who have seriously strayed from your path, that you rekindle the desire for holiness in the hearts of those priests who have become lukewarm, and that you continue to give your fervent priests the desire for the highest holiness. United with your Heart and Mary's Heart, we ask that you take this petition to your heavenly Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

14. Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and to act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shine out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed; in their doubts never despair; in temptation never be destroyed; in persecution never abandoned.

Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In time of weakness, send them your Spirit, and help them to praise your heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit, put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring Good News to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted. And may the gift of Mary, your mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

15. O Jesus, Savior of the world, sanctify your priests and seminarians.

16. Lord Our God, in order to govern your people you willed to unite yourself to the ministry of priests. Grant them the grace of accepting your holy will so that, in their ministry and in their life, they may seek only your glory. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

17. O God, give us holy priests to celebrate the Sacrifice of Salvation, to give sinners the consolation of pardon and thirsting souls the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Amen.

18. Lord, grant us many holy priests.

19. Grant us holy priests to console those who suffer, to remind all that we are brothers, to bless our homes, our work, our fields so that your kingdom may extend to all souls.

20. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, grant your Church many holy priests. Queen of the Apostles, pray for us.

21. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer
For the spiritual renewal of priests.
We praise you for giving their ministry to the Church.
In these days, renew them with the gifts of your Spirit.

You once opened the Scriptures
To the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
Now renew your ordained ministers
With the truth and power of your Word.

In the Eucharist, you gave the Emmaus disciples
Renewed life and hope.
Nourish priests with your own Body and Blood.
Help them to imitate in their lives
The death and resurrection they celebrate at your altar.

Give priests enthusiasm for the Gospel,
Zeal for the salvation of all,
Courage in leadership,
Humility in service,
Fellowship with one another
And with all their brothers and sisters in You.

For You love them, Lord Jesus,
And we love and pray for them in Your name. Amen

22. O Jesus, by your most loving heart, I implore you to inflame with zeal for your love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach your word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of your Heart, where forever they may glorify you. I especially remember those priests who have absolved me of my sins in the Sacrament of Confession, and those who have given me Your Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity as nourishment for my soul in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Amen.

23. My Dear Jesus, you desire that we pray for zealous laborers in your harvest. Deign to raise up in your Church, and especially in this diocese, numerous holy priests who, taking your Divine Heart as their Model, will, in the exercise of their holy priesthood, promote the glory of your heavenly Father and the salvation of those souls whom you have redeemed with your Precious Blood. Give us truly holy priests who, inflamed with the fire of your Divine love, seek nothing but your greater glory and the salvation of souls.

O Mary, Queen of the clergy, pray for us; obtain for us many holy priests. Amen.

24. Eternal Father,

I lift up to You all the priests of the world.
Sanctify them. Heal and guide them.
Mold them into the likeness and holiness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest.
May their lives be pleasing to You.
In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen

25. Jesus, Good Shepherd,
You sent us the Holy Spirit to guide Your Church
and lead Her faithful to You through the ministry of Your priests.

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, grant to Your priests
wisdom in leading,
faithfulness in teaching,
and holiness in guarding Your sacred Mysteries.

As they cry out with all the faithful, "Abba, Father!"
may Your priests be ever more closely identified with You
in Your divine Sonship
and offer their own lives with You, the one saving Victim.

Make them helpful brothers of one another,
and understanding fathers of all Your people.

During this Year for Priests, renew in Your priests
deeper faith,
greater trust in You,
childlike reliance on our Mother Mary,
and unwavering fidelity to the Holy Father and your bishops.

Holy Mary, intercede for your priests.
St. Joseph, protect them.
St. Michael, defend them.
St. John Vianney, pray for them.

26. Holy Blessed Trinity, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day. No matter what little thing I do, I offer it to You for the holiness of priests, for the conversion of priests, for an increase in the number of priests, for seminarians and for priestly vocations.
I give myself this day as an offering for holy priests, in union with the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And in union with the Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus, consecrated daily on all the altars of the world, I make this offering freely, trusting that You will take care of all my needs, spiritual and temporal, for the state in life to which You have called me.
I make this offering through the Immaculate Hands and Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Love, that she might take this imperfect prayer and present it to

You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who lives and reigns One God for ever and ever.
Amen.

**The following prayers are from the Congregation for Clergy
to be said by priests**

27. Daily Prayer for Priests

Almighty God, we pray that your grace may assist us in the ministerial priesthood to serve you worthily and devoutly, in complete purity, and in good conscience. And if we are unable to live our lives with such innocence, grant that we weep bitterly over the evil we have done. Grant that we may serve you ever fervently with a spirit of humility, with right intention of good will. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

28. Invocation

O good Jesus, make me a priest after your own Heart.

29. Prayer to Jesus Christ

Most beloved Jesus, with a singular benevolence you have called me from among thousands of men to follow you in the excellence of priestly dignity. I beg you for the divine strength to rightly fulfill my ministry. I implore you, Lord Jesus, to daily renew the grace given to me through the imposition of the hands of the Bishop. O most powerful doctor of souls, heal me so that I may not fall back into evil, that I may flee from every sin, and that I may do what is pleasing in your eyes until the hour of my death. Amen.
Prayer to implore the grace to safeguard chastity

Lord Jesus Christ, spouse of my soul, delight of my heart and my soul, I fall on my knees before you, praying and fervently beseeching you to allow me to persevere and grow in the true faith each day. O sweet Jesus, grant that I may reject all impiety and that I may be a stranger to the carnal desires and earthly concupiscence which fight against my soul. Through your help, may I preserve my chastity unstained.

O most holy and immaculate Virgin Mary, Virgin of virgins and most beloved Mother, purify my heart and soul each day, and obtain for me a holy fear of the Lord and a particular distrust of my own strength.

St. Joseph, guardian of the virginity of Mary, keep my soul from all sin.

All of you holy Virgins who unceasingly follow the divine Lamb, be solicitous to me a sinner, that I may avoid sin in thoughts, words, actions or omissions, and that I may never be far from the most chaste heart of Jesus.

Amen.

30. Prayer for effective priestly witness

Lord, You have called me to priestly ministry
in a particular moment of history,
as in the times of the first Apostles,
when You desire that all Christians,
and in a particular way Your priests,
might be witnesses to the wonders of God
and the strength of Your Spirit.

Allow me to be a witness to the dignity of human life,
to the grandeur of love,
and to the power of the ministry which I have received.
May my entire life be dedicated to You:
for love, only for love, and for a higher love.

May my commitment to celibacy
born of Your mission,
be a joyful and happy affirmation
and a total dedication of myself to others
in the service of Your Church.
Give me strength in my weakness,
and gratitude for my steadfastness.

Holy Mother Mary,
greatest and most wonderful mother of all time,
grant that I may entrust my life to you each day.
Mary, font of generosity and dedication,
grant that I may be joined with you
at the foot of the greatest crosses of the world,
experiencing the redeeming pain of the death of your Son,
so that I might enjoy the triumph of the Resurrection
for eternal life.

Amen

31. Prayer for Priests

Lord Jesus, present in the Most Blessed Sacrament,
and living perpetually among us through Your Priests,
grant that the words of Your Priests may be only Your words,
that their gestures be only Your gestures,
and that their lives be a true reflection of Your life.

Grant that they may be men who speak to God on behalf of His people,
and speak to His people of God.

Grant that they be courageous in service,
serving the Church as she asks to be served.

Grant that they may be men who witness to eternity in our time,
traveling on the paths of history in Your steps,
and doing good for all.

Grant that they may be faithful to their commitments,
zealous in their vocation and mission,
clear mirrors of their own identity,
and living the joy of the gift they have received.

We pray that Your Holy Mother, Mary,
present throughout Your life,
may be ever present in the life of Your Priests.

Amen