



Holy Hour for
VOCATIONS

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF CHRISTCHURCH**
TE TAKIWĀ Ō TE PĪHOA

Opening Prayer

Lord with the gift of courage we can do
all manner of things in service of you.
You desire we listen to the voice of your Son
and so discover the truth about you.
He is the gate which you have opened
that we may enter in and out and be saved.

Help young men and women
discover in priesthood and consecrated life
His voice and share the fullness of life you promise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life

by Pope Francis

Lord of the Harvest,

Bless young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.

Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

Inspire all of your disciples to mutual love and giving
- for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

Instill those in religious life, parish ministries, and families
with the confidence and grace to invite others
to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

Unite us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament,
so that we may cooperate with you in
building your reign of mercy and truth,
of justice and peace.

Amen

Scripture Reading

John 10:11-18

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.'

Scripture Reading

Matthew 9:36-10:8

When Jesus saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: 'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

Rosary for Vocations

Including readings from 'Pastores Dabo Vobis'

Begin rosary - Creed, Our Father, 3 Hail Mary's, Glory Be

Reading - Pastores Dabo Vobis

The Church should daily take up Jesus' persuasive and demanding invitation to "pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Mt. 9:38). Obedient to Christ's command, the Church first of all makes a humble profession of faith: In praying for vocations, conscious of her urgent need of them for her very life and mission, she acknowledges that they are a gift of God and, as such, must be asked for by a ceaseless and trusting prayer of petition. This prayer, the pivot of all pastoral work for vocations, is required' not only of individuals but of entire ecclesial communities. There can be no doubt about the importance of individual initiatives of prayer, of special times set apart for such prayer - beginning with the World Day of Prayer for Vocations - and of the explicit commitment of persons and groups particularly concerned with the problem of priestly vocations. Today the prayerful expectation of new vocations should become an ever more continual and widespread habit within the entire Christian community and in every one of its parts. Thus it will be possible to relive the experience of the apostles in the upper room who, in union with Mary, prayerfully awaited the outpouring of the Spirit (cf. Acts 1:14), who will not fail to raise up once again in the People of God "worthy ministers for the altar, ardent but gentle proclaimers of the Gospel" (Roman Missal, Collect of the Mass for Vocations to Holy Orders).

First Decade - Lord, You choose whom You will, in response to Your command we beg You to send forth workers into Your vineyard.

Second Decade - As You called Abram to be the father of many nations, inspire many young people to answer Your call.

Reading - Pastores Dabo Vobis

In addition, the liturgy, as the summit and source of the Church's existence (cf. Vatican II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 10) and in particular of all Christian prayer, plays an influential and indispensable role in the pastoral work of promoting vocations. The liturgy is a living experience of God's gift and a great school for learning how to respond to his call. As such, every liturgical celebration, and especially the Eucharist, reveals to us the true face of God and grants us a share in the paschal mystery, in the "hour" for which Jesus came into the world and toward which he freely and willingly made his way in obedience to the Father's call (cf. Jn. 13:1). It shows us the Church as a priestly people and a community structured in the variety and complementarity of its charisms and vocations. The redemptive sacrifice of Christ, which the Church celebrates in mystery, accords a particular value to suffering endured in union with the Lord Jesus. The synod fathers invited us never to forget that "through the offering of sufferings, which are so frequent in human life, the Christian who is ill offers himself as a victim to God, in the

image of Christ, who has consecrated himself for us all” (cf. Jn. 17:19) and that “the offering of sufferings for this intention is a great help in fostering vocations.”

Third Decade - As You spoke to awake Samuel with your call, open the ears of Your chosen ones.

Fourth Decade - As Elisha was anointed by the prophet Elijah, give those You call strength to follow You without looking back.

Reading: Pastores Dabo Vobis

In carrying out her prophetic role, the Church feels herself irrevocably committed to the task of proclaiming and witnessing to the Christian meaning of vocation, or as we might say, to “the Gospel of vocation.” Here too, she feels the urgency of the apostle’s exclamation: “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (1 Cor. 9:16) This admonishment rings out especially for us who are pastors but, together with us, it touches all educators in the Church. Preaching and catechesis must always show their intrinsic vocational dimension: The word of God enlightens believers to appreciate life as a response to God’s call and leads them to embrace in faith the gift of a personal vocation.

Fifth Decade As You called the Apostles to be ambassadors for Christ, so send us fervent priest and religious to strengthen our spirits.

Intercessions

1. For Pope Francis, Michael our Bishop, and all the bishops of the world, that they continue to serve the Church with courage. May they speak the truth and so inflame the hearts of men and women to more readily welcome Christ’s demanding message, stamped as it is with the mystery of the Cross.

Lord Hear us: *Lord hear our prayer*

2. For those who lead the nations of the world: May they never be disturbed by falseness or misled by untruth. May they work to avoid all who come only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. Instead let them put out into the deep in order to find unity, peace and service of each other and build a world that values ‘life in all its fullness’.

Lord Hear us: *Lord hear our prayer*

3. For parents and teachers: May those who are entrusted by God to guide young people on the path to holiness be an example of generous fidelity to Christ. We pray they help our young to discern their path and to become true friends of Christ

Lord Hear us: *Lord hear our prayer*

4. For those women and men who are, at present, serving you as priests and religious: May they witness to Christ our gateway to the Father helping us, the people of God, to come in and go out and find pasture. May our priests be true gatekeepers, filled with joy and salvation, eager to share their treasure with us all.

Lord Hear us: *Lord hear our prayer*

5. For those who are currently searching for their vocation in life: May they listen to the voice of the Father speaking in Jesus today. May Mary the Mother of God who said “Do whatever he tells you” inspire them to trust their future to him with confidence and without hesitation.

Lord Hear us: *Lord hear our prayer*

6. For those whom you are inviting to the vocations of family life, of consecrated life and ordained ministry: Fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them fortitude and prudence, so that they may be able to discover the full truth about themselves and their own vocation.

Lord Hear us: *Lord hear our prayer*

7. For our own special needs:

Lord Hear us: *Lord hear our prayer*

8. For those who have died specially the Bishops, Priests and Religious of this Diocese: May they rest in peace entering through the new gateway of the Father.

Lord Hear us: *Lord hear our prayer*

Litany for Vocations

Lord, have mercy (*Repeat R/*)

Christ, have mercy *R/*

Lord, have mercy *R/*

Christ, hear us

Christ, graciously hear us

Response: *Have mercy on us.*

God the Father of heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,

Response: *Pray for us.*

Holy Mary Holy Mother of God
Holy Virgin of Virgins
St Michael, Prince of the heavenly host
St Gabriel, messenger of God's plan
St Raphael, companion of the journey
All you holy Angels and Archangels
St Joseph, protector of the Holy Church
St John Vianney, patron of priests
St Teresa of Avila, patron of religious life
St Therese of Lisieux, patron of missionaries
St Aloysius Gonzaga, patron of youth
St Alphonsus Liguori, patron of vocations
St Junípero Serra, patron of vocations
St Charles Borromeo, patron of seminarians
St Stanislaus Kostka, patron of novices
St John Berchmans, patron of altar servers
St Maria Goretti, patron of teenagers
All you holy men and women

Be merciful, spare us, O Lord.
Be merciful, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Response: *Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.*

Through your mercy
Through Your kindness
Through the fervent prayers and sacrifices of Your people
Through the power of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
Through the intercession of all the Saints and Angels
Through the sanctification of the family
Through parents being generously open to life
Through the example of priests and religious striving for holiness
Through a renewed sense of fidelity to our Catholic Faith

Response: *O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.*

That young people might seek to live the truth of Christ
That young people might seek God's will for them in their lives
That young people might hear the call to give their lives for the mission of the Church
That all priests and religious might be renewed in the spirit of the new evangelisation
That Bishops might be strengthened to be courageous shepherds
That we may always zealously pray for and promote vocations
That those who are being called to be priests and religious might respond generously
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world: Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world: Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us, O Lord.
The harvest is great but the laborers are few. We beg the harvest Master to send out laborers for His harvest.

Let us pray:

O God, Who chose the Apostles to make disciples of all nations and Who by Baptism and Confirmation has called us to build up Your Holy Church, we implore You to choose among us, Your children, many priests and religious who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives making You known and loved by all. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Prayer to Our Lady

O Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church, to you do we commend our young people, in particular those called to follow your Son as brothers, sisters, and priests.

You know, O Mary, the struggles, doubts, and obstacles they must face. Assist them to answer Yes to the divine call, as you did at the invitation of the angel.

Draw them near to your heart so that they can understand the joy that awaits them when they answer your Son's call to be witnesses of His love in the world.

Concluding Prayer

Jesus our Saviour, sent by the Father to reveal His merciful love,
Give to your Church the gift of young people who are ready to put out into the deep,
to be signs among their brothers of your presence which renews and saves.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



For more information

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