

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a religious altar. In the foreground, numerous tall, thin white candles are lit, their flames glowing brightly. Behind the candles, a large, lush arrangement of white flowers, possibly lilies, is visible. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the candles themselves. The overall color palette is dominated by the warm white of the candles and the soft pinks and purples of the flowers, creating a solemn and reverent atmosphere.

PRAYERS OF

COMPASSION
AND *Care*

My dear friends,

We live in stressful and disturbing times when the wound of abuse within our community receives new and unrelenting attention. I share your confusion, your sadness, and your despair. It is a moment in which we are invited to bring our gaze back on Jesus, the One who keeps calling us with invitation and possibility, the One whom we follow, and the One who holds us together even in the fragmentation we feel. To this end, you might find the following prayers of particular help. They are taken from our annual Diocesan Liturgy of Lament and Hope that we enter each September during our month for Safeguarding awareness. The prayers are taken from a similar liturgy conducted by the Diocese of Cleveland, USA and include hymns written in 2002 by a victim of sexual abuse, Stephen Trunk. May his words be a source of hope for us in the midst of the pain we feel.

Fr David Ranson

Diocesan Administrator
13 March 2019

Hymn of Healing

Tune from Creator of the Stars of Night

We call the Spirit, source of life,
Descend from heaven, show Your might.
Surround us, Lord, and fill our hearts.
The seed of faith in us to start.

A way beyond these painful days,
To heal these victims, Lord we pray.
Enflame our lives with fires of love,
With healing mercies from above.

Renew the Church now wracked by sin.
With Holy Justice let us win
The hearts of faithful led astray.
In strife, confusion, make Your way.

Dispel the darkness, enter in.
Make clean our hearts, forgive our sin.
Make us Your sacrifice of love
The hope of victims, Christ Your Son.

Fly to me now, O heavenly Dove.
Bring down your healing, from above.
Make room to greet the Heavenly Guest.
Make straight my path to righteousness.

Cast out the sickness of my soul.
Break forth the dawn that makes me whole.
A strength within that never dies
Your Blessed Spirit in me rise.

Until the day I live with You,
Make quick my steps in wisdom true.
My every word, my every act,
Lord, You alone can guide me back.

Give thanks to God for healing hands,
For strength and weakness. Here I stand.
My life in joyful witness bring.
To Christ I bow, my prayers I sing.

Be now forever laid to rest,
My fears, my anxious cares be blessed.
No more in sorrow's land to dwell,
My spirit saved, the world to tell.

Stephen Trunk, 2002

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Prayer of Blessing

Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead,

Put on the mind of Christ,
from the folly of whose cross God's wisdom was manifest.

Receive the sign of the cross on your ears,

that in the cries of the abused and betrayed
you may hear the voice of the Lord.

Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes,

darkened by tears, denials and coverups,
that they may be brightened in the light of Christ.

Receive the sign of the cross on your lips,

silenced by fear and the shock of scandal,
that you may respond to the word of God
and speak justice and truth in love.

Receive the sign of the cross over your heart,

broken in pain and uncertainty, disillusionment and disappointment,
that Christ may dwell there by faith.

Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders,

weighted and scarred with sadness and sorrow,
that your burden be eased in the gentle yoke of Christ.

Receive the sign of the cross on your hands,

wrung in anger and agony,
that Christ may be known in the work which you do.

Receive the sign of the cross on your feet,

that you may stand firm in faith and hope,
and walk in the way of Christ.



Litany of Compassion and Commitment

Short response: 'Lord of Mercy, hear our prayer'

Unable to forget the violation done to us, we cry...

Still bearing the marks of our wounds, we cry...

Struggling to overcome our fears, we cry...

Mourning our loss of innocence, we cry...

Not knowing where to turn in our misery and isolation, we cry...

Wondering how your grace permitted this, we cry...

Bowed down by the weakness of human frailty, we cry...

Longing for families who can bear our truths with us, we cry...

Looking for justice where none seems possible, we cry...

Searching for the kind of faith that once sustained us all, we cry...

Covered in shame and confusion, wanting to stand safe and secure again, we cry...

Hoping for kindness and truth to meet, justice and peace to kiss, we cry...

Desperate for the courage to face our own demons, we cry...

Wanting to put all this behind us and live in wholeness, we cry...

Outraged by the actions of those who should have known better, we cry...

Bearing with one another the burdens of our own and not of our own making, we cry...

Lost, looking for your guidance and direction, we cry...

Amidst the shattered images of godliness and ministry, we cry...

Out of darkness of our despair, we cry...

Into the cloud of our unknowing, we cry...

Not even knowing how to help each other or where to go from here, we cry...





Hymn – Voice of the Victims

Tune from Be Thou my Vision

*When no one would listen, the Lord lent an ear;
When I was hurt, helpless, the Lord drew me near.
When justice was wanting, the angels came round
And lent me their shoulders, their wings and their crowns.*

*When I lay there trembling, my faith gone away
The Lord came and rescued, my spirit He saved.
He whispered a wonder that carried me clear,
Restored my creation, my innocence dear.*

*Our shepherds unfeeling, uncaring, remote.
Unmoved by our suffering years without hope.
The Might of our Father in heaven unleashed,
He shook the Church soundly and banished its sleep.*

*My anger grows righteous, it awakens my soul.
It moves God to root out and vanquish my foes.
A Pillar of Fire sent from God for a light
To scatter the darkness, no sin hid from sight.*

*No longer a haven for wolves among sheep
Where victims were trampled, their sorrows to keep.
A welcoming Church filled with mercy and love
No room for abusers, new hope from above.*

*My Rock, my Strong Fortress, my Armour, my Shield
Protect all Your children and help them to heal.
Keep safe all Your treasures, the faith that is true.
Confound all the wicked, and guide us to You.*

From 'A Service for Victims' by Stephen Trunk, a victim of clergy abuse. 11 June 2002.
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Sexual Abuse is a crime.

*To report sexual abuse in the Church - Contact your local police or
Crimestoppers 1800 333 000 or Melinda, Tamara and Angela are
happy to assist you reporting abuse to the Police or to report it for you.*

RESOURCES

Royal Commission

W childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

National Redress Scheme

W nationalredress.gov.au **P** 1800 737 377

1800 Respect

W 1800respect.org.au **P** 1800 737 732

Beyondblue

W beyondblue.org.au **P** 1300 224 636

Bravehearts

W bravehearts.org.au **P** 1800 272 831 **E** bisl@bravehearts.org.au

Knowmore

W knowmore.org.au **E** info@knowmore.org.au **P** 1800 605 762

Lifeline

W lifeline.org.au **P** 13 11 14

Survivors & Mates Support Network

W samsn.com.au **P** 1800 472 676 **E** support@samsn.org.au



Office for
Safeguarding
(CHANCERY)
**CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY**



Office for
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**CATHOLIC
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