



Church of the Home

Prayers of Hope

Issue 1
27 March 2020

Gather at a table with a symbol of hope (such as a flower) next to a candle. Take turns in reading these prayers.

Make the sign of the cross

As we light a candle we remember that the earliest Christians gathered as church in their homes. They prayed together, asking God for help and looking for hope. They took comfort when they remembered that Jesus promised: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:20).

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Hope at Home

Pope Francis says that families are the home of love and tenderness, where Christian beliefs come to life. There is no stereotype of the ideal family, but rather a “challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems.”

So when Saint Paul said these words to his friends he wanted to tell them that hope and love unfold especially through hard times and difficulties:

You might like to discuss together what you hope for – for yourself, your family, and the world

Love bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things
(1 Corinthians 13:7)

Prayer of Hope

Lord help us to love each other better and to speak with kindness and positivity. Help us to avoid gossip and despair.

As we practice these things please fill our hearts with hope so that we do not give up.

May we know you better when we see even the smallest goodness in the world, and when we do good to each other.

Amen

Hope in the Bible

The Scriptures are full of stories about the challenges of life. The People of God always have hope that God remembers them and loves them

Long before the time of Jesus, God's People were taken from their homes and their land and sent into exile. They were worried and afraid. The prophet Jeremiah wrote to them and reminded them to keep hope alive in their hearts. The message is the same for us today:

The Lord says: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me... from which I sent you into exile"
(Jeremiah 29:11-14)



The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Further reading & resources

Saint Brigid's parish ["Living Faith"](#) webpage

Fr Rob Galea's [YouTube Channel](#)

Pope Francis [Amoris Laetitia](#) "On Love in the Family"

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne [website](#) has news, info, reflections