

PRAYER SERVICE FOR VIANNEY SUNDAY (August 09, 2020)

Opening Hymn: We are gathering together unto Him OR any suitable hymn

Introduction:

Today in our Archdiocese, we celebrate Vianney Sunday. Let us thank God for the gift of 'The Ordained Priesthood', which He has given the Church. Let us spend this time praying for all the priests and particularly those who minister to us in our parish who have dedicated their lives to serve the Lord and His community. Let us also pray that they provide leadership in being Christ-like and effective witnesses to the Crucified and Risen Lord.

Scripture Reading: John 10: 11-15 (To be proclaimed from the Bible)

Reflection

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, promises fullness of life. He leads by example in His willingness to lay down His life for His sheep. Jesus chose a life through death, self – emptying and abundance of fruit through sacrifice. He invites all His ordained priests and pastors to '*come follow me*'. Let us silently pray for all our priests, that they may be able to live their lives in the footsteps of the Great Shepherd.

In today's globalized world, like the Good Shepherd, a priest must be ready to administer the Sacraments at all times, be selfless in service, support the community, and be the prophetic voice that challenges evil and sin in the world. Let us pause and pray that God may grant strength and courage to our priests who must continue to empty themselves (minds and hearts) so that they may be able to fully enter into the heart and mission of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Christ is the supreme High Priest, interceding for us. Let us confidently bring our prayers before him. **Our response is: Loving Father, hear our prayer.**

1. We pray for the Holy Father, Bishops and Clergy that they may work towards making their Christian communities more conducive to an encounter with Christ; let us pray to the Lord...
2. We pray for all the priests in our parish that they may continue to listen to the voice of Jesus saying: "*Give them something to eat*"; let us pray to the Lord...
3. We pray for all the retired priests who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ, that they may continue to use their skills effectively in spreading God's word; let us pray to the Lord...
4. We pray that the Lord may continue to whisper to those whom he calls, "*Come follow me!*" We pray that we may always have an abundance of good vocations in the Church; let us pray to the Lord...
5. We pray for the gentle repose of the faithful departed, especially the deceased priests; let us pray to the Lord...
6. We pray for our personal intentions; let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Loving Father, as we pray for these intentions, help us to grow in Christian maturity and build your kingdom. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Hymn: O Give Thanks to the Lord OR any suitable hymn.

(Prepared by the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission, Bombay)