



Commission for **Liturgy**  
Archdiocese of Bombay

**PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY**  
**SUNDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 2021**

**Introduction**

On this 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Archdiocese of Bombay celebrates Prison Ministry Sunday. The theme and vision for the Ruby Jubilee celebration this year, is Prisoners' Reintegration. We look on the incarcerated, be they an adult, youth or child, as a brother and a sister waiting to be released, rather than being abandoned on the lost and forgotten list. We pray in this Eucharistic celebration, to be filled with the fire of love and zeal, to work for those in prisons, so as to fulfill Jesus' demand, "When I was in prison you came to see me".

**Readings:**

FIRST: Ex 16:2-4,12-15

PSALM: 78:3&4bc,23-24,25&54

SECOND: Eph 4:17,20-24

GOSPEL: Jn 6:24-35

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

**Celebrant:** Jesus is the bread of life. If we believe in him, we shall have eternal life. With confidence we now place our petitions before the Lord, saying...

**Response: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.**

**For the universal Church:** Lord, that your anointed ministers, Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests and all consecrated people might be instruments of your liberating love. May they assist our brethren who are imprisoned, in their journey of Reintegration ... Let us pray to the Lord.

**For representatives of our government:** Lord, you have chosen them to serve our country. During this pandemic, give them the grace to respond to the needs of our country with timely efforts of relief and restoration. Through your Spirit of wisdom and compassion, guide them to recreate the life of people within the walls of the prison and beyond as well... Let us pray to the Lord.

**For our brothers and sisters imprisoned, especially those wrongly accused:** Lord, You who were innocent and falsely accused, understand their plight. They face physical, mental and emotional persecution. We ask for your saving grace that the prison authorities and staff may be kind, gentle and understanding towards them... Let us pray to the Lord.

**For all volunteers engaged in Prison Ministry, Mumbai:** Lord you have called each one by name and they have answered your call to reach out to the least, the lost and the lonely in prison. Empower them in all their endeavours, to be successful in the Reintegration of prisoners... Let us pray to the Lord.

**For parents:** Lord, you have called parents to be the first and foremost educators of their children, We pray that your wisdom and strength will continue to inspire them in their responsibilities. We pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for our personal needs, the needs of our parish community, and needs of the prison ministry Mumbai (*Pause*)... Let us pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Loving Lord, we thank you for listening to our prayers. Stretch forth your comforting hands and touch all our brethren in prison. With the power of your Spirit take us and use us for the Reintegration of the inmates who are imprisoned. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS**

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Corona Virus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for an efficacious control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We thank You for blessing the efforts of our research scientists working on the development of a vaccine. We pray that these vaccines will be effective in combating the virus and its mutants, and in controlling the spread of the pandemic. We pray that the vaccine be available for all our people even the poor and those in rural areas.

We pray for doctors, nurses and health workers who are in the frontline of this battle, that they be kept safe and have the strength and courage to continue their heroic efforts.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.