

Day for Life 2009 —

You are precious in my sight (Isaiah 43:4)

Liturgical material for Sunday

Some points for an introduction

- Today our bishops ask us to celebrate a Day for Life. This year we focus on suicide. Mental ill-health, depression and despair can affect many people and their families.
- In his Encyclical *Spe Salvi* Pope Benedict reminds us that ‘We need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else. This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain.’ (SS 31)
- The Day for Life is not just a chance to learn about a particular issue but also an opportunity to see what we can do as individuals and as a community to reach out and offer hope to those who are in need.
- For those among us who suffer from mental health issues may this be a place of welcome and peace where you can experience God’s love for each one of us. [*This invitation and the general theme may elicit direct approaches from parishioners after Mass — as well as what may be on offer locally the Day for Life prayer card provides a list of websites and other resources.*]
- To help us reflect on these issues further there is a short leaflet which will be given out at the end of Mass. There will also be a collection to support the Day for Life.

Homily Notes

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

Reading	2 Kings 4:43–44
<i>They will eat and have some left over</i>	
Psalm	Ps 144:10–11. 15–18 r. v.16
<i>You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.</i>	
Reading	Ephesians 4:1–6
<i>One Body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.</i>	
Gospel	John 6:1–15
<i>Jesus gave out as much as was wanted to all who were sitting near.</i>	

The following are some ideas for the homily. In some parishes the homilist may wish to reflect on the readings with these

- *Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing is wasted* — In our society today there is a danger that people feel they are ‘crumbs’ or ‘left-overs’ either through depression or the onset of illness and old age. In the love of Christ no person is wasted or insignificant.

- *Gave thanks* — to be formed by the Eucharist means we should always remember to give thanks to God — some people find it a good habit to begin each day remembering 3 things to be thankful for — formed by this it is easier to reach out with hope for others.
- *You open wide your hand* — This Day for Life provides an opportunity for catechesis about the Church's teaching on suicide — see the leaflet for a brief summary.
- *He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts* — The local Church can provide compassionate support to those who may have attempted suicide, to their families and the families of the bereaved, to those who are dying and their families.

The Prayer of the Faithful

The general intercessions should follow the form for normal Sunday Mass and include intentions for:

- the needs of the Church;
- public authorities and the world;
- those in need;
- the local community.

Sample Intentions

These intentions are given as examples. It is not intended that a parish should use all these intentions rather that one or two of them might be added to the other intentions a community prays for this Sunday.

We pray for all those who suffer from depression and despair;
may they find renewed hope.

We pray for our community;
may we be ready to always reach out to those in need..

Reflection

God, lover of souls,
you hold dear what you have made
and spare all things, for they are yours.
Look gently on your servant N.,
and by the blood of the cross
forgive his/her sins and failings.

Remember the faith of those who mourn
and satisfy their longing for that day
when all will be made new again
in Christ, our risen Lord,
who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

Amen.

Order of Christian Funerals

In the section *Prayers for the Dead* some prayers are included for those who died by suicide.