

# Prayers for the Year of Faith

---

*"If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and if you believe with your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. It is by believing with the heart that you are justified, and by making the declaration with your lips that you are saved." Romans 10:9-10*

May the year of faith lead all believers to learn by heart the creed and to say it every day as a prayer, so that the breathing agrees with the faith. *(From the Pastoral Aid for the Year of Faith)*

## **Pope Benedict's**

### **Prayer in preparation for the Year of Faith**

Spirit of Life, who in the beginning hovered over the abyss,  
help humanity of our time to understand  
that the exclusion of God  
leads to being lost in the desert of the world,  
and that only where faith enters,  
do dignity and liberty flourish  
and the whole of society is built on justice.  
Spirit of Pentecost, who makes the Church one Body,  
restore in the baptized an authentic  
experience of communion;  
make us living signs of the presence of the  
Risen One in the world,  
a Community of saints that lives in the service of charity.  
Holy Spirit, who equips us for the mission,  
grant that we may recognize that, also in our time,  
so many people are in search of the truth about their  
existence and the world.  
Make us collaborators of their joy with the proclamation  
of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
grain of the wheat of God,  
which renders good the terrain of life  
and assures the abundance of the harvest. Amen.

### **The Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed):**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Parish Prayer for the Year of Faith**

*Begin with the Sign of the Cross.*

Oh Christ, you are present with us in this moment  
as we gather in your name.

*Momentary pause. Turn your heart to Christ.*

You open for us the door of faith  
and you usher us into communion with God  
and participation in your church.

When we proclaim your Word with our lives,  
your transforming power and grace  
send us out on a lifelong journey of faith.

Grant that each member of this entire parish  
may know you, love you, and serve you  
with ever-greater passion.

May you be the shepherd of all our souls  
as we come to the table of your Word,  
the table of your Eucharist,  
and the tables of our own homes  
to sacrifice ourselves for one another in your name  
as you have done for us.

*Pause to offer Christ one way in which you will sacrifice  
yourself in this manner.*

May the households of this parish  
become beacons of your light  
to the people that surround them.

May we work together for peace and justice  
in our neighbourhoods and communities.

May we welcome all in your name  
and guide each other to ever-greater faith.

And may your grace now guide us,  
for we are united in your name forever. Amen.

*Drawn from "Come to the Table" – small group faith  
formation for the Year of Faith by PastoralPlanning.com.*

**Loving God,** you grace us with the gift of faith.

Faith in you opens to us the fullness of love;  
love of you, love of our neighbour, love for ourselves.  
In love we know the reason for all our hope.

Increase us, Lord, in faith, in love and in hope. Amen

© Fr Gerard Flynn *(Reproduced with permission)*

### **Westminster Diocese Prayer for the Year of Faith:**

Lord, Let me see our face, know your heart  
and experience your love in my life.

Strengthen in me the precious gift of faith.

I believe Lord; Help my unbelief. Amen.

# Prayers for the Year of Faith

---

## **The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary  
Under Pontius Pilate He was crucified,  
died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## **Portsmouth Diocese Prayer**

Loving Lord, you are always there,  
waiting graciously at the door  
to welcome each one of us,  
waiting for each one of us  
to dare to knock at that door  
so that you may open that door ever more widely  
and welcome us home to you.

Loving Lord, you are always there  
with a welcoming look,  
with warm enfolding hands,  
with open-hearted hospitality.  
You are constant in your desire  
to welcome the returner,  
to pardon the sinner,  
to bandage the wounded,  
to give fresh home and hope to the stray.

Loving Lord, your door is always open  
to enable us to re-discover a taste for you,  
to encounter you afresh,  
to provide us with renewed enthusiasm,  
to show us the power and beauty of the faith.

Loving Lord, you are always there  
to take us to your heart,  
to confirm our understanding,  
to challenge us to further exploration,  
to enable us to grow in our witness of you,  
to radiate our joy in believing.

Loving Lord, you hold out the precious gift  
of a more conscious and profound adherence  
to your Gospel of life.  
You grace us with the ability  
to profess, celebrate and witness to your Gospel  
at the level of the heart,  
that authentic sacred space within each one of us.

Loving Lord, as we enter into this Year of Faith,  
we would not be seeking you  
had you not already set out to seek and meet us.  
Keep on reminding us that our faith is no theory,  
but our faith is first and last  
a live encounter with You, Jesus,  
who live within the Church.

Loving Lord, keep on reminding us  
that our faith is a conscious decision  
to stand with You so as to live with You  
and with the values you bring.  
Keep on reminding us  
that our profession of faith  
is both personal and communitarian.  
Keep on reminding us  
that we are called to be credible witnesses,  
individuals and a community  
who show their conviction  
by daily lives lived with  
something of the Spirit of Jesus.

Loving Lord, then this Year of Faith  
will blossom out into something beautiful for you,  
and others will notice and be attracted by  
such clear witness, and long to belong  
more closely to Jesus and to his family, the Church.  
Amen.

*© Denis Blackledge SJ (Reproduced with permission)*

## **Arundel & Brighton Prayer for the Jubilee**

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,  
conscious of our sinfulness,  
but aware that we gather in your name.  
Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.  
Give us light and strength to know your will,  
to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.  
Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power,  
for you are God,  
sharing the glory of Father and Son.  
You desire justice for all;  
enable us to uphold the rights of others;  
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance  
or corrupted by fear or favour.  
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love  
and keep us faithful to all that is true.  
As we gather in your name,  
may we temper justice with love,  
so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you,  
and earn the reward  
promised to good and faithful servants.  
Amen.

*(Prayer used at each session of the Second Vatican Council)*

*The English translation of the Prayer for Meetings from A Book of Prayers © 1982, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission.*

# Prayers for the Year of Faith

---

## Family Prayer for Year of Faith

O God our Father,  
in Jesus you call all Christian families and homes  
to be signs of living faith.  
By the light of the Holy Spirit,  
lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith,  
and by that gift  
may we grow in our relationship with Jesus, your Son,  
and be confident witnesses to Christian hope and joy  
to all we meet.  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Prayer for the New Evangelisation

*“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’  
But how can they call on him in whom they have not  
believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they  
have not heard? And how can they hear without someone  
to preach? And how can people preach unless they are  
sent?” –Romans 10: 13-15*

Heavenly Father,  
Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words  
from Holy Scripture.

Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith  
and deepen my relationship with your Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News.

Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the  
confidence to proclaim the Good News to others.

Pour out your Spirit,  
so that I might be strengthened to go forth  
and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life  
through my words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind me:  
If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?  
If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?  
If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit  
I might hear the call of the New Evangelization  
to deepen my faith, grow in confidence  
to proclaim the Gospel and boldly witness  
to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Year of Faith Intercessions

For the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, and for all bishops,  
that God will give them the grace and wisdom to touch the  
lives and hearts of many during this Year of Faith.

For the Church throughout the world, that this Year of Faith  
may be a time of spiritual renewal and personal encounter  
with Christ for people everywhere.

For the sick and the suffering, that this Year of Faith may be  
a time for them to experience Christ even in the midst of  
their illnesses and needs.

May this Year of Faith be a time to renew our love for Christ  
and the Church and to enter into a deeper devotion to the  
Virgin Mary.

May our deepening of faith during this Year of Faith help us  
to long for justice and peace in the world.

Through reading and studying the Catechism of the Catholic  
Church and the documents of the Second Vatican Council,  
may all Catholics come to know and love the doctrines of  
the faith and grow in a desire to share the saving truths of  
Jesus Christ in our homes, places of work and community.

May this Year of Faith fill our parish community with an  
outpouring of virtue.

May God the Father watch over and bless all families during  
the Year of Faith, that it may be a time for families to grow  
closer to one another and to Christ.

May the Year of Faith be an opportunity for Catholics to  
renew their baptismal vocation and grow in zeal to share  
the gospel with others.

May this Year of Faith be a time of an outpouring of the  
Holy Spirit on all parents, catechists, clergy and lay faithful  
who share the gift of the faith with others.

May the Year of Faith enrich us with a greater love for God  
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in such a way that others  
ask God the reason for our hope.

May the Year of Faith be a time for all Catholics to renew  
their desire and zeal for the Eucharist and to avail  
themselves regularly of the Sacrament of Reconciliation  
and Penance.

During this Year of Faith, may all Catholics publicly proclaim  
their love for Christ and his Church.

May this Year of Faith remind us of ways to serve those in  
our midst who are overlooked, ignored or rejected, so that  
all may experience the peace and healing of Christ’s love.

May the Holy Spirit guide the Church during the Year of  
Faith so that all Catholics may experience a deepened  
renewal of faith, hope and love.

May young people be inspired by this Year of Faith to listen  
attentively and respond to God’s call to priesthood and  
religious life.

May the faithful grow in understanding and love of the calls  
to marriage and the single life, realizing the vital role these  
vocations play in the work.

*All prayers on this page from the United States Conference  
of Catholic Bishops. Reproduced with permission.*