

PRAYERS DURING & AFTER SOS WEEK

Shelter us, O Lord, and give us the compassion and knowledge to help others in their search for shelter. Protect us, O Lord, from darkness, and give us the wisdom and skills to protect others who live in unsafe and unhealthy housing and long for the light. Bless us, O Lord, with homes that make comfort and joy realities for our families, and give us the grace to ensure this for all families. Amen.



Sharing the loaves and fishes,
You gave us an image of solidarity with the hungry, O Lord.

Sharing yourself in the Bread and Wine,
You called all to the table, O Lord.

Give me the hunger to be a part of the feeding
And the healing of this world.

Nourish me with your Grace,
So I may work with joy to serve your children.

Open my eyes and my heart
To recognize those in poverty
And increase my awareness
Of the structures and systems
That need to be changed
So we may all break bread together.

In your name we pray for the end of hunger.
Amen.

We pray for hope

We hope that those suffering from the effects of sleeping rough, of living in crowded, dangerous and dirty conditions, and those parents, children and old people living under the daily stresses and deprivations caused by our housing crisis, can be offered release, found decent places to live and be given the security and safety that comes with a real home.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We hope that those involved in policies that perpetuate these problems, those who profit from the provision of shamefully poor and unsafe homes and those who refuse to acknowledge that the problems exist, will open their eyes and begin to change their ways for the good.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for the Light of Christ For Christ's light to shine in the hearts of all who sell the idea of and have bought into the demonizing and dismissing of some of the poorest and most vulnerable members of our society. Let Christ's light open their eyes and give them new sight

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

For Christ's light to shine in the hearts of everyone who spent last night sleeping on the street, those who stayed awake fearing that this would soon be their fate, all those who slept in cold, damp rooms with no heating, those who lay afraid of their neighbors and those who had done without a meal to feed and clothe their children. Give them strength and the knowledge that they can put their trust in God and that soon their lives will change for the better.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for solidarity For this community worshiping together today, that we may find the strength and will to stand alongside our neighbors in their need, listen to their stories, offer them dignity and love and journey with them towards the hope and light we all need.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

For us all as children of God to share that solidarity in our community, so we can help those close to the edge before they have lost all hope, before they have lost their home and before they become the new targets for the cynics and victims of the demoralizing process suffered by all who lose their homes.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for change ~ For change in how we treat those who are marginalized, change in how we plan and provide housing, change in the quality and cost of housing that all of our society needs and change in the vision and understanding of those involved in every aspect of the industry that builds, manages and sells housing in our land. We pray in Jesus Name. **Amen.**

Father, we thank You that
Jesus came to break down barriers.
He did not see the migrant or the
settled, the housed or the homeless,
the employed or the unemployed;
He saw and loved the person.

Forgive us when we put up barriers
between ourselves and others; help us
to show love to all without constraint.
Help us, Your Church, to build
communities without barriers,
where all are valued because
all are made in Your image.
In Jesus' Name.

Amen.