

# INVITATION

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYERS: THE PRAYER BOOK FOR THE PARISH



## Reflection

Scripture says, "You have found out for yourselves how kind the Lord is." Come to the Lord, the living stone rejected by people as worthless but chosen by God as valuable. Come as living stones, and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple, where you will serve as holy priests to offer spiritual and acceptable sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ... you are the chosen race, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvellous light. '

(1 Peter: 2: 3-5, 9)

- What is your response to this piece of Scripture? Which parts of it resonate most strongly for you?
- What does it mean to be part of the family of God for you?
- What do you find daunting about the thought of connecting with and accompanying others, and how might you overcome such fears?

THE PRAYER BOOK FOR THE PARISH

For a variety of reasons, there are many people in our parishes who may be struggling to return to Mass. People maybe fearful or anxious or have simply got out of the habit. It will be different for every family or individual.

This is an opportunity for those of us who have returned to give some thought to this and maybe ask ourselves:

How can I inspire those who haven't yet returned to Mass back into the life of the Church?

- Accompany: like St Peter, journey with those whom you connect with, as they overcome whatever obstacles may hold them back.

- Family: enable those you accompany to feel welcome

- Reflect on those who you know to be Catholic in your neighbourhood and whether you've seen them at Church or not. If you haven't, pray for the strength to knock on the door and invite them to accompany you to church.

- Similarly, who did you use to see at church, but haven't for a while? Pray for the opportunity to reconnect with and accompany them.

Be aware of the reasons for any cautiousness that they may feel. If they choose not to come back to Church for these understandable reasons, maintain contact with them to be a bridge back for