

FOR
Everything
THERE IS A
Season



*Prayers of
Reflection and Hope*

The Columbans are a society of missionaries, including priests and lay people, who minister to people of various cultures as a way of witnessing to the universal love of God. We go in the name of the Church to announce, by deed and word, the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our work is made possible through a partnership with those who support us both spiritually and materially. Our aim is to help you on your spiritual journey through the prayers and reflections in this book.

-The Missionary Society of St. Columban

Gratitude

Dear Jesus,

When I look back at my life I recall the many people who have influenced me. Things that they did or said struck me and formed part of who I am. Their kind words, encouragement, even warnings, and corrections helped me to grow. Some now have gone on to their reward while others remain. I am grateful for who they were and are. May I, in my own way, help others to appreciate and cherish Your great love that calls us all to be life givers. Amen

Perseverance

Dear Jesus,

I have been doing some good things, but at other times just spinning my wheels. Gradually, I have come to realize the extent of your love, understanding, and mercy, but that needs to sink deeper into my heart. May your example be an opportunity to draw closer to you. Amen

Faithfulness

Dear Jesus,

During Holy Week, we come to reflect on your suffering and death. You were true to your Father's desire for full life for all people and the whole of creation. We falter in following you, letting our own petty concerns get in the way of giving ourselves in love and service for others. In some ways we become like those who greeted you when you entered Jerusalem and then denied or even wished you dead in a few days' time. Encourage us to use our hearts, minds and hands, all together, in following your example of being life giving. Amen



Unity

Dear Jesus,

We pray that your Spirit may continue to give new life to your Church. Some have fallen away. Enlighten their hearts to find you and accept the embrace of your love so as to live with new purpose in their lives. Strengthen us to be your apostles in our day to day lives. Bring us together as sisters and brothers in your new creation. Amen

Determination

Dear Jesus,

You were faithful to your mission for the Kingdom of God. Some did not listen. Your disciples did not fully grasp what you were about. Others opposed you. You faced hypocrisy, indifference, and misunderstanding. Yet through it all your love of the Father supported you even to the point of death. Help me to be faithful when difficulties come. Share with me your cherishing of God's love. Amen

Reflection

Dear Jesus,

When we look back on our lives, we see the depth of your care for us. It forms a pattern unique to each and binds us together in the embrace of your love. You call us day by day to love in turn. We are not without fault or backsliding but your mercy encourages us forward to spread your ways of compassion and peace by the example of our lives. Amen

Community

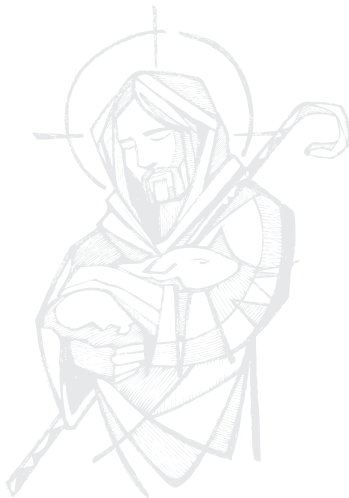
Dear Jesus,

You give each of us a special call to follow you. Yet, we are not called merely singly, but as members of the communities in which we live-family-parish-friends-work-town-nation-creation. Enlighten our hearts and minds with your love. Help us see what we can do to spread your message of peace, healing and new life. Amen

Purposefulness

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes, I get caught up in the dos and don'ts of religious practice. It comes to feel almost too mechanical. I don't think that is what you want. You criticized the Pharisees for being too concerned with the details of the law while forgetting its purpose. Help me be a reflection of your love so that I can become a more faithful and loving person. Amen



Fragility

Dear Jesus,

At times, painful experiences crop up in our lives, the loss of someone beloved, illness, economic loss, and other woes. When they come upon us suddenly, they are all the heavier. We may at times grow numb, not knowing what to say or do. We see how fragile we are. In our weakness we cry to you to give us the strength and serenity to carry on, to live in hope. Your death brought forth new life. Share that new life with us. Amen



Tolerance

Dear Jesus,

I get discouraged when I see people, communities, nations that cannot or do not want to get along with one another. When I look into my own heart I can see my own biases and resentments. Bring healing to our brokenness. Let us experience the joy of showing respect, of being open to different views, of growing together rather than apart. Amen

Vision

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes the challenges of life seem to dim our eyes and we see things in a narrow view. Yet you appreciated the beauty that surrounded you. You spoke of the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. You welcomed the little children to come to you. Help me to see and cherish the beauty in the everyday events and people that touch my life. Open my heart to all the wonders of your creation. Amen

Hope

Dear Jesus,

We hope for many things - success, adequate resources, health for ourselves and for those dear to us, and other genuinely good desires. Yet in the long run, what we really need is to grow in friendship with you. May this day provide the opportunity to take some time out to be with you and share our thanks and hopes. Amen



In all of our work, we strive to follow the teaching of Jesus of Nazareth who said, *“He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free and to proclaim the Lord’s year of favor.”*

— (Lk 4:18)

*“There is an appointed time for
everything, and a time for every
affair under the heavens...”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Prayers by Fr. John Comiskey, SSC

For additional copies of this prayer contact us at:

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