



# *Out of the Depths*

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2020

## **2020 NATIONAL DAY OF SORROW AND PROMISE LITURGY BOOKLET**







## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first nations people as the original and ongoing custodians of this land. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice.

## LITURGY

*Incense burner is in place as a central focus.*

*To begin the prayer, grains of incense are placed on the coals, symbol of our prayer rising to God.*



## GATHERING PRAYER

**Leader:** We have come together  
O God of the Second Chance  
to acknowledge our sin,  
to weep in the name of our Church,  
to beg forgiveness for the wrong we have  
done.

**All:** Open your arms, O God of the Second  
Chance; pull us out of the mirey deep,  
lift us from the sea of fear,  
guide us to the promised shore.

**Leader:** Breathe forgiveness and peace into our  
bodies and souls, soothe our hearts with  
hope, steady our shaken spirits with faith.

**All:** Breathe peace into our bodies and souls,  
soothe our troubled hearts with hope,  
steady our shaken spirits with faith.

**Leader:** Inspire us to act with justice,  
to care with tenderness,  
to love with abandon.

We ask this in Christ's name. Amen

## THE ANGUISHED WORD

*The prophet of Lamentations speaks from the heart:*

I called on your name, O Lord,  
from the depths of the pit;  
you heard my plea, “Do not close your ear  
to my cry for help, but give me relief!”  
You came near when I called on you;  
you said, “Do not fear!”

You have taken up my cause, O Lord,  
you have redeemed my life.  
You have seen the wrong done to me, O Lord;  
judge my cause.

You have seen all their malice, all their plots  
against me.

*Lamentations 3:55-60 NRSV*

Pause



## SURVIVOR STEVE'S WORD

Steve came from a devout Catholic family which often had priests and brothers visit their home. In year 8, Steve was invited to go on a camping trip of 8 boys organised by one of the Brothers from his school.

One night, the Brother running the camp asked Steve to come into his tent and that's when the abuse started. Steve was frightened, confused and he froze. He didn't say anything to his parents when he got home as he didn't think they would believe him. At various times over the next few months Steve would be called into this Brother's classroom, when all the other boys were at lunch or gone home and the sexual abuse would continue.

Steve tried to find excuses to avoid this Brother and started to get into trouble at school. His studies deteriorated, and though he begged his parents to change schools, they never agreed hoping the tough discipline of the Brothers would help Steve improve at school. He finally left school in Year 10. He always felt an underlying resentment and anger that had a negative effect on all his relationships.

Steve came forward about the abuse he experienced at school when he was 50, He had a failed marriage, broken relationships with his adult children and a failed business behind him. His father had died a year or so earlier and he now felt free to come forward. Though he was suicidal when he first disclosed the abuse, he took up the offer of counselling and has found the therapeutic assistance very helpful. He also confided in his mother and her loving and accepting response was a great comfort to Steve. He has started a training course and feels confident things will improve.

*Hungering after healing and justice the prophet  
Jeremiah, a survivor, speaks:*

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed;  
save me, and I shall be saved.

You are my refuge in the day of disaster.

Let my persecutors be shamed,  
but do not let me be shamed;  
let them be dismayed, but do not let me be dismayed.

*Jeremiah 17:14, 17b-18 NRSV*

Pause

## SURVIVOR GREG'S WORD

Greg attended the local Catholic high school and was from a troubled family, his mother had died when he was 10 and his father was absent much of the time, due to work and his alcohol dependence.

Greg felt very special when he was chosen by one of the Brothers to help clean up at the Brothers' residence on Saturdays and received special treats. It was when he was invited to go for swims at the pool and later asked to shower in the change rooms that the abuse started. Greg was only 12 and didn't really understand what was happening and was too embarrassed to say anything. So, the abuse went on regularly for a few months until the Brother stopped inviting him and that confused him even more as he felt rejected.

He told his Dad but was beaten for "telling lies about the Brothers". He left school as soon as he could at 15 and found work in various unskilled positions.

Greg had a troubled life with drug and alcohol abuse, failed relationships and low paid employment. He's now in his 50s and was always worried the abuse he experienced would happen to other children. He disclosed the abuse to the Order and went to the police, to make sure his perpetrator wasn't still able "to get to other kids". When he found out his abuser was already in gaol he was relieved and affirmed in coming forward, despite the stress.

Greg lives on his own and has faithful dogs as his companions. He is supported by a small group of friends and a psychologist who has provided regular therapy sessions. Though life is tough in many ways, he felt affirmed by knowing "justice had been dealt".





## Silence

Musical arrangement suggestions:

- *Out of the Depths - Ruth Fazal*
- *Out of The Depths - Sovereign Grace*
- *Out of the Depths - Psalm 130 - James Block*
- *Out of The Depths - Michael Talbot*
- *Lacrimosa, from Requiem for a Friend – Zbigniew Preisner*
- *Lacrimosa, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*



## THE GOSPEL WORD

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

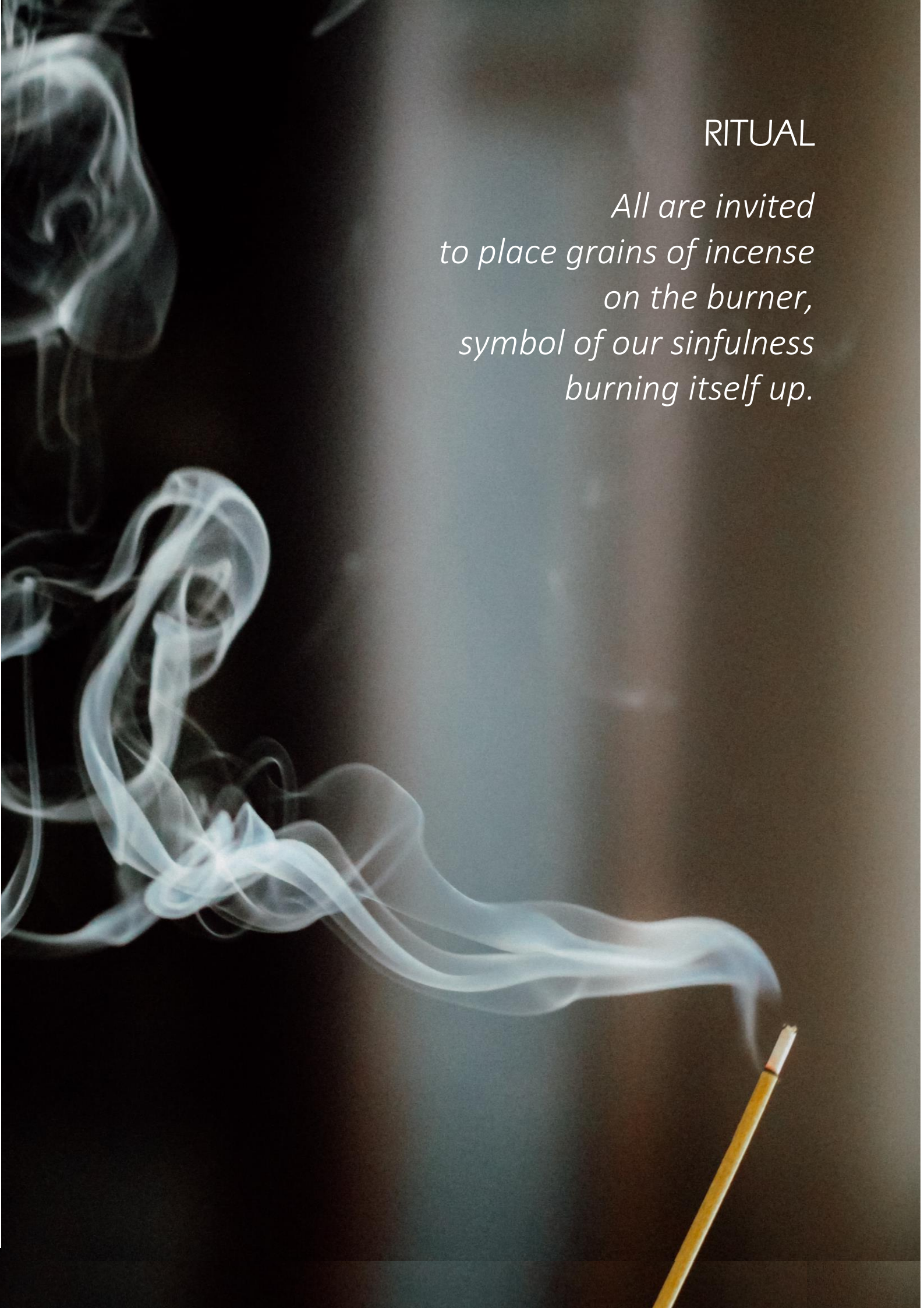
Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

Matthew 14:22-33

Silence

## RITUAL

*All are invited  
to place grains of incense  
on the burner,  
symbol of our sinfulness  
burning itself up.*



## LITANY OF SORROW AND PROMISE

Leader: From troubled waters

**All:** We cry to you for help.

Leader: As the waters begin to consume us

**All:** We grasp your outstretched hand.

Leader: In the darkest hour of the night

**All:** You come to us.

Leader: In our storm-tossed Church

**All:** You are God-with-us.

Leader: Hold us

**All:** Walk with us

Leader: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."  
Rise, clasp my hand and come.

**All:** Christ Jesus, we cling to you.  
Forever shall you be our God.  
Forever shall we be your people.  
Forever shall we place our trust in you.

Leader: With such prayer in our hearts we turn to  
you in faith and hope.



**All:** Change us into faithful disciples,  
who commit to listening, believing,  
supporting, and doing all we can, to  
ensure that the tragedies of the past never  
happen again.

Fill our hearts with strength, sensitivity  
and goodness that infinitely exceed all we  
could ever ask for.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen



HYMN: Prayer of St Francis

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness only light,  
And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving of ourselves that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.



## PROMISE STATEMENT


As Catholic Religious of Australia, we are stirred by sorrow for the failings of the past. We encounter the depth of pain endured within our midst.

WE promise to listen to and support those who have been harmed by abuse

WE promise to act to prevent abuse, respond with compassion and justice and put the protection of children and the vulnerable at the heart of all our ministries

WE promise to support all those walking courageously with the abused and those working fearlessly for the prevention of abuse





WE promise to work tirelessly and humbly to build a culture in our Church which is loving and answerable to the wider community

WE promise to partner with those who have been abused, with governments, civil agencies and society at large to continue to learn and work towards a safer, more respectful and accountable Church

WE promise to be people of action, to embed prevention and safeguarding practices and governance reforms throughout our Church

WE promise to remember and to be forever changed

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25 October 2020

WITH THANKS

Catholic Religious Australia wishes to express its gratitude to the following people for their work in creating this liturgy:

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