**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Mobile Phone Challenge**

**PRAYER SERVICE 2**

**Summary:** This liturgy is to link the fundraising and fasting aspects of the Mobile Phone Challenge to prayer. The idea is that we focus on our mobile phones and the names on our contact list. The people named in our contacts provides a launch for prayer.

At the end of the service, participants will be invited to bring their phones up to the foot of the cross and offer to Jesus every person on their contact list.

**You will need:** A crucifix as the central focus for this prayer service. You may decide to add relevant music or to sing hymns.

***Note:*** *Depending on the age of the group, phones should be at least on silent – if not switched off. If leading this liturgy in a school setting, you will need to tell pupils to switch off their phones before entering the prayer space. If having their phones in front of them would cause too much disruption, you might decide that it would be easier for them just to think about their mobile phone as opposed to having it in front of them. This will not be a problem in university and parish settings.*

**Opening Prayer**

Lord God, help me grow in love for you and others. Help me to be willing to serve you, your Church and any person in need. Let me learn how to forget myself and let go of selfishness and pride. Jesus, during this Lent season, give me the courage to rely on you, so that I may become a living reflection of your love. Holy Spirit, help me to act on this resolve, by spending time in prayer and by being more sensitive to the needs of others. Let me learn how to be faithful in small, everyday situations, knowing that being a disciple begins with the person in front of me. Enable me to care about my suffering brothers and sisters across the world. Give me a passion to support charities like Aid to the Church in Need who are in every corner of the world helping those in need.

Give me the voice to speak to those in need of consolation, and the energy and inclination to use my gifts in the service of the Church and others. Help me to let go of any conscious or unconscious intentions to control others, to receive praise, to rely on material goods or to put myself in first place.

**Focused Prayer/Meditation**

In order to help us live out what we have just prayed for, during this time of prayer we are going to use our mobile phones. Place your mobile phone in front of you where we can see it. This is going to be used as an aid to prayer; so it needs to be switched off or on silent.
We turn our attention to our own lives.

We ask you, God, to bless every aspect of our lives and our relationships.
Holy Spirit, please be our guide as we pray.

We know that God is always present… consciously decide to focus on God – when we take the focus off ourselves and, using our will, raise our minds to God, we give God the space to communicate with us.

Looking at your mobile phone:

Think about the people who are in contact with you most often. [Pause to give the group time to think and pray.]

Who are the people I am in contact with most often? What is my relationship with them? How do I treat those closest to me? Lord God, please bless all of my close relationships; my family and my friends. I give you thanks for the people who have helped and supported me: (name them to God now), to those who accept me (name them to God now) and for those who love me (name them to God now).

Now spend some time just thinking about all those who are on your contact list. Who are they? How do you know them? Might there be people I know who need help and prayer at this time? Who are the people from among my contacts who are having difficulties? Am I there for them? Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind any person is in a difficult situation (name them to God now). If I need to reach out to anyone, dear Lord, help me to have the selflessness to do so this Lent.

Are there people named on your phone or present in your photographs that you have lost contact with? Why is that? Is there any person I need to apologise to? Are there any broken relationships I would like God to help me put back together? Do I need to be reconciled with anyone? Holy Spirit of God, enable me to take responsibility for any people I have hurt, and give me the strength to ask for forgiveness if I need to (name them to God now). If there is anyone I need to speak to, give me courage to do so. Is there anyone I need to forgive? Am I holding a grudge against anyone (name them to God now)? Is there a person I know I need to reach out to? I now decide to place all the more difficult relationships in my life into your hands, Lord.

Is there any person who has hurt me? If that's the case, Lord, give us courage to bring peace and healing to all our relationships.

We offer up to you, Lord, any names on our phone that we have had to delete for whatever reason. We remember any people who have died but whose numbers are still on our list. Let's take a moment now to remember any person I know who has passed away. Jesus, we ask that they may rest with you in eternity (name them to God now). If we are suffering from their death, please, Lord, help us through any loss of loved ones.

Take a moment now to think about groups you are part of on your phone. Lord, we give you thanks for the groups that give us opportunities for support and sharing and for enjoying laughter. Thank you for our friends (name them to God now).

Am I part of any groups which I find stressful? Do I use group chats to ridicule others? Do some of my interactions cause division rather than inclusion? Have I hurt someone deliberately? Use this time to think about your own conduct in groups and ask Jesus to show you if there are any areas you could do better on.

Do I avoid my family and make life difficult at home because of my phone? Lord, help me to be aware of what is happening in ‘real life’, what is in front of me in the moment. Let me not use my phone in a way which causes my family and friends distress. May I never put it before the people in my life.

Let's ask for God's forgiveness for any incidences of bullying, trolling and exclusion I may have taken part in (name them to God now and ask for healing and forgiveness for the other person and for yourself).

Some of us may have fewer friends than we would like. If this is the case, use this time to ask God to bring the right people into your life. If you are lonely, ask God, who is always with you, to let you know his love for you.

Consider now the videos you watch, websites you look at and all the media you consume.

There may be areas which I know are damaging to my wellbeing and my relationships with others. If I use my phone to access violence or pornography or sites which promote disrespectful attitudes, intolerance or hatred, I resolve to try to use the gifts of technology for good. Jesus, help me to see that these materials will damage me and my relationships and will never make me happy.

Use this time to make a resolution to use technology only for good. Forgive us, Lord, for any times we have used our phones for things we know to be wrong.

Now we're just going to play some quiet music and give you the chance to think about issues, people or situations that come to mind when you consider your contacts. Use this time to pray to Jesus for any situation that has come to your mind during this time of prayer.

God help every person on our mobile phone lists, videos, photos and groups. We ask you to bless them this Easter. We ask you to bless their families and their friends. Bring them, and us all, peace, healing, wholeness and willingness to serve, and may we all follow this commandment from Luke 10:27:

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ and ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

**Offering**

When Jesus was dying on the cross **Mary the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and the apostle John were the only ones who stayed with him until the end**. They loved Jesus totally and understood his love for them. Christian tradition holds that when we bring our intentions ‘to the foot of the cross’, we can offer them in a special way to Jesus. We are now going to offer every person we have ever interacted with and, every situation that has arisen on our mobile phone, to God.

Explain that each person will be invited forward, holding their mobile phone, to kneel for a moment at the foot of the cross. There silently, prayers can be offered for any person, situation or issue that came to mind during the meditation. This is a moment for personal prayer.

**Prayer of Pope Francis**

"You, who are at the foot of the cross, perhaps alone, isolated, abandoned…Be aware that God loves you. God especially listens to your prayer. Brothers and sisters, I need you all, each one of you. The world suffers and your prayer moves the Lord. Let us ask the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Love, to inspire acts of charity, of benevolence towards those around us. There is no one so poor as to have nothing to give. Love saves the world and God wants to go through us to save the world." ([Courtney Mares](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/author/421/courtney-mares). Catholic News Agency, Vatican City, Nov 15, 2019)