**World Day for Consecrated Life**

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 2 February

Some Suggestions

**Welcome**

Today on this Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we praise and thank God for the gift of the Light of Christ in our midst. We recall all who have been Christ to us in our lives.

*(pause)*

On this World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, we also praise and thank God for the gift of all who have been consecrated for the service of the Kingdom.

**Blessing of Candles**

**Prayers of Intercessions (Universal Prayers)**

For all leaders within our Church

May the wisdom of the Holy Spirit guide them as they shine forth the light of Christ through their lives. Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

For all people and especially for those within our parish and local community

May they recognise the personal love God has for each of them and respond with heart as they live their mission within the community. Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

For all people during this time of pandemic and need within our world

May they feel the presence of Christ in their hearts and encourage and support each other as they encounter grief, isolation, hardship, desperation, difficulties and ill-health.

Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

May they be filled with the Light of Christ who enlightens the way and is hope for the life of the world. Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

May Mary, the Mother of Jesus who *pondered all things in her heart* and understood the experience of hardship and loss, be a source of inspiration and blessing for all people at this time. Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

For those who have responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to be a consecrated person

May they experience the support of the Church as they continue their growth in love and mission. Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

For those consecrated to God by the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience

May they live their baptismal promises and continue to commit and serve with open hearts and willing spirits. Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

May they always reveal the love of Christ to those they encounter and continue to enrich our world by their dedicated lives of prayer. Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

For those discerning their vocation in life, particularly those whom the Lord is calling to consecrated life

May they be given the wisdom to hear God's call, the courage to respond generously and be filled with the joy, peace and the certainty of God’s love.

Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

For all who have died, especially for our loved ones and those who have died during the pandemic, war and disasters of our time

May they share in the peace, glory and light of the Risen Christ.

Lord hear us, R/ Lord hear our prayer.

**Parish Bulletin Suggestion**

As we prepare to celebrate World Day for Consecrated Life on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February, you are invited to view the video, ‘Consecrated Life throughout the Ages’Video (12mins) <https://youtu.be/FBGi-vkTcz0>. On this day, the celebration of the Eucharist throughout the Archdiocese will be offered for all consecrated persons, both past and present, serving our Church and world.

**For your information**

Message of Pope John Paul II instigating the first World Day for Consecrated Life in 1987 <https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccscrlife/documents/hf_jp-ii_mes_06011997_i-consecrated-life-day_en.html>

‘Consecrated Life throughout the Ages’Video (12mins) <https://youtu.be/FBGi-vkTcz0>

Historical Timeline Poster

<https://vocationnetwork.org/images/cms-images/YCL/ReligiousLifeTimelineV19.pdf>

Message of Pope Francis for 26th World Day for Consecrated Life 2022: awaiting publication

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/consecrated_life.index.html>

**For any further enquiries or assistance,**

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SA Vocations Network