

## Prayer for Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

### Theme: Compassion

**Focus:** Light a candle ...spend a minute or two in silence.  
Become aware of God's presence in and around you.

**Reading:** Luke 6: 36-38

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.  
Do not judge, and you will not be judged;  
do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.  
Forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you.  
A good measure, pressed down,  
shaken together, running over,  
will be put into your lap;  
for the measure you give  
will be the measure you get back.

1. Say aloud a word or phrase that speaks to you.

### Meditation

A world in which money and power dominate human and social interaction is a world that is numb. Such a world does not hear the cry of the poor and does not sense the pain of all who suffer. It is the world into which Jesus was born.

As he came to know the world in which he moved, Jesus grew in vision. He imagined a man feeling compassion for another from an enemy community, lying beaten on the side of the road. He imagined a father feeling compassion as he looked upon his wasteful irresponsible son shamefully returning home.

As Jesus' heart was filled with compassion, so too were his deeds. His heart reached out in compassion to the widow of Nain who had lost her only son. As he looked on the crowds who followed him, he felt compassion for them in their lostness and torment and dejection. In Jesus' heart and hands, the compassion of God penetrates through the numbness of our world. As we break bread in his name, we, who have been touched by his compassion, become his heart and hands in the world.

2. Quietly give thanks for the times you have experienced compassion
3. Quietly recall the times you have offered compassion

**Prayer of Intercession:** Invite people to say a prayer

After each intention say "E te Ariki" Response: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

**Concluding Prayer: Psalm 103: 1-5, 8-10, 13-14)**

*R: My soul, bless the Lord, bless God's holy name!*

*My soul, bless the Lord, hold dear all God's gifts!*

Bless God, who forgives your sin and heals every illness,  
Who snatches you from death and enfolds you with tender care,  
Who fills your life with richness and gives you an eagle's strength. **R**

The Lord is tender and caring, slow to anger, rich in love.  
God will not accuse us long, nor bring our sins to trial,  
Nor exact from us in kind what our sins deserve. **R**

As tender as father to child, so gentle is God to believers.  
The Lord knows how we are made, remembers we are dust. **R**  
(Psalm 103: 1-5, 8-10, 13-14)

(Adapted from Prayer for Parish Groups D Harrington & J Kavanagh)