

## **Global Week of Prayer and Advocacy for China – Pastoral Resources**

- Intercessions for Prayers of the Faithful at Sunday and at daily Mass
- Topics for homilies or brief reflections (as appropriate) at Sunday and at daily Mass
- Linking feasts and daily memoriae to prayer for China

### **Sunday, May 23 – Pentecost**

*Readings:* Acts 2:1-11  
Galatians 5:16-25  
John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

#### *Topics for Homily:*

- Pentecost and mission, evangelization, and growth of the Church in China (Acts 2:1-11)
- The Holy Spirit as advocate and spirit of truth present to the persecuted Christians of China (John 15:26-27)
- Persecution and sharing in both the gifts of the Spirit and the suffering of Christ crucified (Galatians 5:16-25)

#### *Intercessions:*

1. As we begin this week of prayer for China and the persecuted Church, we pray that all those who suffer there for their faith in Christ will be continually strengthened by the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord. (US/CAN) / Lord hear us. (UK)
2. Let us pray that as the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles this day that same spirit will dwell in the bishops, clergy, and faithful of the Church in China strengthening and inspiring them to witness to the Gospel with perseverance and in true faith. We pray to the Lord/Lord hear us.
3. Let us pray for all those in China currently imprisoned and facing torture for their faith in Christ that the Holy Spirit might comfort them and grant them courage to faithfully proclaim the Good News. We pray to the Lord/Lord hear us.

### **Monday, May 24 – Mary, Mother of the Church**

*Readings:* Genesis 3:9-15, 20  
John 19:25-34

#### *Topics for Homily:*

- Suffering of Christ and redemption with links to the persecuted Church in China
- Our Lady Help of Christians as great mediatrix for the Church in China

#### *Intercessions:*

1. On this feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, let us pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters of the Church in China that they may continue to profess the true faith in communion with the universal Church and so be faithful witnesses to Christ and His Gospel. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.
2. We ask for the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church venerated In China as Our Lady of Shushan through this prayer:

***Prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan – Benedict XVI***

*Virgin Most Holy, Mother of the Incarnate Word and our Mother,  
venerated in the Shrine of Sheshan under the title "Help of Christians",  
the entire Church in China looks to you with devout affection.  
We come before you today to implore your protection.*

*Look upon the People of God and, with a mother's care, guide them  
along the paths of truth and love, so that they may always be  
a leaven of harmonious coexistence among all citizens.*

*When you obediently said "yes" in the house of Nazareth,  
you allowed God's eternal Son to take flesh in your virginal womb  
and thus to begin in history the work of our redemption.*

*You willingly and generously cooperated in that work,  
allowing the sword of pain to pierce your soul,  
until the supreme hour of the Cross, when you kept watch on Calvary,  
standing beside your Son, who died that we might live.*

*From that moment, you became, in a new way,  
the Mother of all those who receive your Son Jesus in faith  
and choose to follow in his footsteps by taking up his Cross.*

*Mother of hope, in the darkness of Holy Saturday you journeyed  
with unfailing trust towards the dawn of Easter.  
Grant that your children may discern at all times,  
even those that are darkest, the signs of God's loving presence.*

*Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China,  
who, amid their daily trials, continue to believe, to hope, to love.  
May they never be afraid to speak of Jesus to the world,  
and of the world to Jesus.*

*In the statue overlooking the Shrine you lift your Son on high,  
offering him to the world with open arms in a gesture of love.  
Help Catholics always to be credible witnesses to this love,  
ever clinging to the rock of Peter on which the Church is built.*

*Mother of China and all Asia, pray for us, now and forever. Amen!*

**Tuesday, May 25 – Tuesday of Week 8 in Ordinary Time / St. Gregory VII, Pope / St. Bede the Ven., Priest and Doctor**

*Readings:* Ecclesiasticus 35:2-15 (Feria)  
Mark 10:28-31 (Feria)

Ecclesiasticus 39:6-10 (Memoriæ)  
Matthew 5:13-16 (Memoriæ)

*Topics for Homily/Brief Reflection:*

- Religious freedom and St. Gregory VII as an example of a defender of the Church's independence

Resources: [St. Gregory VII](#) and *Dignitatis Humanæ*

*Intercession:*

1. As we commemorate today Our Lord's raising up of Pope St. Gregory VII as a faithful shepherd of the Church we pray that his example will guide the bishops of China as they strive to maintain communion with the universal Church and so faithfully proclaim the Gospel. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.
2. Let us pray for the Catholic children and youth of China, now banned from churches, that they may be granted the strength and courage to grow in love of Christ. We pray also for their families that they might faithfully transmit the true faith in Christ Jesus and His Gospel. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.

**Wednesday, May 26 – St. Philip Neri, Priest**

*Readings:* Ecclesiasticus 36:1-2, 5-7, 13-19 (Feria)  
Mark 10:32-45 (Feria)

Philippians 4:4-9 (Memoria)  
John 17:20-26 (Memoria)

*Topics for Homily/Brief Reflection:*

- [Life St. Augustine Zhao Rong](#) as an example of a faithful priest
- St. Philip Neri and the need for faithful priests for the Church in China

*Intercessions:*

1. As we commemorate today the life of the priest St. Philip Neri we pray that the Holy Spirit will raise up faithful men to a priestly vocation to serve faithfully the persecuted Church in China. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.
2. Together with our prayer for priestly vocations in China we also pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire vocations to the religious life among faithful Chinese men and women that they may serve the Church in its mission to the persecuted, the poor, and the suffering. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.

**Thursday, May 27 – Thursday in Week 8 in Ordinary Time / St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop**

*Readings:* Ecclesiasticus 42:15-26 (Feria)  
Mark 10:46-52 (Feria)

1 Thessalonians 2:2-8 (Memoria)  
Luke 10:1-9 (Memoria)

*Topics for Homily/Brief Reflection:*

- The role of bishops and the role of missionaries, linking St. Augustine of Canterbury to persecuted Chinese bishops such as [Bishop James Su Zhimin of Baoding](#)

*Intercessions:*

1. Today as we commemorate the life of the bishop St. Augustine of Canterbury, we pray that through his intercession the Holy Spirit will raise up courageous bishops for the Church in China who in their fidelity to the Catholic Church will guide their flocks to a greater love of Christ and His Gospel. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.
2. Let us pray for the life and ministry of those Chinese bishops who have been threatened, imprisoned, and tortured including Bishop James Su Zhimin, Bishop Vincent Guo, and Bishop Augustine Cui Tai. That the Lord might grant them and the clergy and faithful of their dioceses courage and perseverance in their afflictions and deliver them from every adversity. We pray to the Lord. / Lord hear us.

**Friday, May 28 – Friday of Week 8 in Ordinary Time**

*Readings:* Ecclesiasticus 44:1, 9-13  
Mark 11:11-26

*Topics for Homily/Brief Reflection:*

- “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will.” – Perseverance in prayer and hoping in God for what seem to be faint hopes, such as an end to persecution of the Church in China. Draw links to other historic cases such as the end of Communism in Eastern Europe.

*Intercessions:*

1. Let us pray for all those who do not enjoy religious freedom in the world and especially in China that God in His infinite wisdom and power might reveal to those who persecute their fellow human beings the inherent dignity possessed by all. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.
2. As we continue to mark this Week of Prayer for China, let us remember all Christians as well as members of other religious traditions who are persecuted simply for what they believe and profess, that Christ our True God might grant them perseverance and courage and deliver them from their adversity. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.

**Saturday, May 29 – Saturday of Week 8 in Ordinary Time / St. Paul VI, Pope**

Readings: Ecclesiasticus 51:17-27  
Mark 11:27-33

*Topics for Homily/Brief Reflection:*

- Jesus's authority is questioned by the scribes and elders: the authority of the Church and its willingness to defend what is right and true against what is unlawful and false – case of the Church in China.

*Intercessions:*

1. Let us pray for the Church in China that its bishops, clergy, religious, and lay faithful might always profess the true faith in Christ and be granted both the courage and prudence to stand against what is false and to profess the love of Christ to all. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.
2. Let us ask for the intercession of St. Paul VI that through his prayers Our Lord will deliver the people of China from the oppression and persecution they face. We pray to the Lord./Lord hear us.

**Sunday, May 30 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**

Readings: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40  
Romans 8:14-17  
Matthew 28:16-20

*Topics for Homily:*

- Fidelity to God and to His commandments: fidelity of the Church in China (Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39:40)
- Suffering with Christ: persecution of the Church in China (Romans 8:14-17)
- Proclaiming the Gospel to all nations: proclaiming the Gospel in the face of persecution as a radical living out of our baptismal call whether in China or where we live (Matthew 28:19-20)

*Intercessions:*

1. As we conclude this Week of Prayer for China and the persecuted Church, we pray that all those who suffer there for their faith in Christ will be continually strengthened by their faith in the Most Holy Trinity. We pray to the Lord/Lord hear us.
2. Let us pray that the Most Holy Trinity, one God in Three Persons, will continually draw together the bishops, clergy, and faithful of the Church in China strengthening and inspiring them to witness to the Gospel with perseverance and in true faith. We pray to the Lord/Lord hear us.
3. Let us pray for all those currently imprisoned and facing torture in China for their faith in Christ that the Triune God might comfort them and grant them courage to faithfully proclaim the Good News. We pray to the Lord./ Lord hear us.

At the conclusion of Mass for the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for China:

***Prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan – Benedict XVI***

*Virgin Most Holy, Mother of the Incarnate Word and our Mother,  
venerated in the Shrine of Sheshan under the title "Help of Christians",  
the entire Church in China looks to you with devout affection.  
We come before you today to implore your protection.*

*Look upon the People of God and, with a mother's care, guide them  
along the paths of truth and love, so that they may always be  
a leaven of harmonious coexistence among all citizens.*

*When you obediently said "yes" in the house of Nazareth,  
you allowed God's eternal Son to take flesh in your virginal womb  
and thus to begin in history the work of our redemption.*

*You willingly and generously cooperated in that work,  
allowing the sword of pain to pierce your soul,  
until the supreme hour of the Cross, when you kept watch on Calvary,  
standing beside your Son, who died that we might live.*

*From that moment, you became, in a new way,  
the Mother of all those who receive your Son Jesus in faith  
and choose to follow in his footsteps by taking up his Cross.*

*Mother of hope, in the darkness of Holy Saturday you journeyed  
with unfailing trust towards the dawn of Easter.  
Grant that your children may discern at all times,  
even those that are darkest, the signs of God's loving presence.*

*Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China,  
who, amid their daily trials, continue to believe, to hope, to love.  
May they never be afraid to speak of Jesus to the world,  
and of the world to Jesus.*

*In the statue overlooking the Shrine you lift your Son on high,  
offering him to the world with open arms in a gesture of love.  
Help Catholics always to be credible witnesses to this love,  
ever clinging to the rock of Peter on which the Church is built.*

*Mother of China and all Asia, pray for us, now and forever. Amen!*