

## ***Waiting in the Upper Room***

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love, Fortitude  
Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence

### **INTRODUCTION**

Good morning and welcome to our opening prayer. The theme of our prayer this morning is: *waiting in the upper room*. Like the disciples of the newly risen Jesus, we too find ourselves waiting between two eras. The disciples knew the message and the Messenger, but to be empowered to share it, they had to wait and pray. Let us begin this day with confidence in the Spirit, who is continuously transforming our world and moulding our hearts for the work of God's Kingdom. With the confidence of disciples, let us take a moment to pray.

### **OPENING SONG:**

Please join in our opening song: (Sugg. *You are the Voice*, vv 1 & 2)

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Let us begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Lord God, we ask you to fill us with the peace of your risen Son. May our prayer this morning strengthen our trust in His abiding presence as we labour in Your vineyard. May we take comfort in knowing that like the disciples waiting and praying in the upper room, our hope in Christ will not be disappointed. We ask you this in His name. Amen

### **READING**

A reading from the First Book of Kings  
(1 Kg 19, 9b-13a)

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

(pause)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSE:** *Remaining in the Upper Room* by Fr. Ron Rolheiser

Taken from: [http://www.lifeissues.net/writers/ron/ron\\_53upperroom.html](http://www.lifeissues.net/writers/ron/ron_53upperroom.html)

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

1. Let us pray for the Church. That all who belong to the body of Christ might take heart in their share in disciples' upper room experience of the Spirit as they seek to live out their faith as followers of the risen Jesus.  
*Hear us, O Lord as we pray.*
2. Let us pray for the world. That in this time of political uncertainty among many nations, all God's children might more readily respond to the call to love God and neighbour written on every human heart.  
*Hear us, O Lord as we pray.*
3. Let us pray for our Pastors, Bishop and all who lead God's children in faith. That the Holy Spirit might strengthen their ability to discern and affirm the good our God is accomplishing in the lives of parents, teachers and all who strive to bring them the light of the Gospel.  
*Hear us, O Lord as we pray.*
4. Let us pray for all those who suffer and lose hope. That by God's grace, our commitment to inward and outward renewal might bring encouragement to those who need it most.  
*Hear us, O Lord as we pray.*
5. Let us pray for the success of our gathering today. That the joy of this Easter season might animate all we do with a deepened appreciation and support for one another's giftedness in this wonderful project of Catholic education to which we have been called.  
*Hear us, O Lord as we pray.*
6. For our additional intentions...

Let us gather all our prayers spoken aloud and those remaining in our hearts, into one voice and unite them with the prayer of Jesus: ***Our Father...***

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

God our Father, so rich are the blessings you have lavished in creating and bringing us through life to this day. Help us to trust in your enduring care, so that our waiting may be with purpose, and our prayer may be fruitful, - in your way and in your time. With confidence in your undying love, we make this prayer to you through Jesus, our risen Lord. Amen

### **CLOSING SONG:**

Please join us in our concluding song: (Sugg. *You are the Voice*, vv 3 & 4)