

Liturgy for International Women's Day 2026

The following may be included in the Celebration of the Mass and/or any events that Parishes are organising to celebrate International Women's Day

“Created in God's Image: Called, Gifted, Sent”

Opening Song (optional)

Suggestions: *“The Summons,” “Christ Be Our Light,” “Here I Am, Lord,”* or a simple Taizé chant

Opening Greeting

Leader:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader:

We gather today on International Women's Day
to give thanks for the gift of women,
created in the image and likeness of God,
called to love, to lead, to nurture, and to transform the world.

We pray in gratitude, in hope, and in solidarity
with women everywhere.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Loving and faithful God,
You created women and men equal in dignity,
diverse in gifts, united in your love.

You entrusted women with wisdom and courage,
with compassion and strength,
with the power to bring life, faith, justice, and peace into the world.

Be with us as we pray.
Open our hearts to listen,
our minds to understand,
and our lives to reflect your justice and mercy.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Scripture Reading (*choose one*)

Option 1 – Galatians 3:26–28

“There is no longer Jew or Greek... slave or free... male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

Option 2 – Proverbs 31:17,20,25–31

'She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. '

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Option 3 – Luke 8:1–3

“The women who accompanied Jesus and provided for him out of their resources.”

After the reading:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reflection (*can be read or offered briefly*)

Today we honour the many ways women live out their vocation:

Women who are married and single,
mothers and grandmothers,
teachers, carers, and homemakers,
women in paid work and unpaid service,
women whose labour is visible and those whose faithfulness is hidden.

We give thanks for religious sisters and consecrated women
whose lives of prayer and service sustain the Church and the world.

We acknowledge women of other faith communities
and women of no religious tradition,
whose wisdom, courage, and commitment to justice
enrich our shared human family.

We recognise the vital role of women in the life of the Catholic Church—
pastoral leaders, theologians, catechists, ministers, volunteers,
and faithful disciples who carry the Gospel forward each day.

May we continue to grow as a Church
that listens to women's voices,
honours their gifts,
and works for dignity, inclusion, and justice for all.

(Silence)

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader:

Let us bring our prayers before God,
who hears the cry of all who seek justice and peace.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

1. For the Church,
that it may recognise, affirm, and fully value
the gifts, leadership, and wisdom of women.
We pray...
2. For women in every stage and vocation of life—
married and single, mothers and carers, educators and workers,
religious sisters and lay leaders—
that they may be supported, respected, and encouraged.
We pray...
3. For women of all faith traditions and those of no faith,
that mutual respect, cooperation, and peace
may strengthen our communities and our world.
We pray...
4. For women in countries where they are oppressed, silenced, or denied basic
rights;
for those living in poverty, on the margins of society,
or affected by war, displacement, and violence.
We pray...
5. For women who have been hurt, abandoned, abused, or excluded;
that they may know healing, safety, dignity, and hope.
We pray...
6. For women in positions of power—
in politics, business, education, and public life—
that they may lead with integrity, compassion,
and a commitment to the common good.
We pray...
7. For ourselves,
that we may challenge injustice,
stand in solidarity with women everywhere,
and work for a world shaped by equality and peace.
We pray...

Leader:

God of justice and mercy,
receive these prayers and all those we hold in our hearts.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Closing Prayer

Leader:

God of all life,
we thank you for the strength, resilience, and faith of women.
May your Spirit continue to guide us
toward a world where every woman is valued,
every voice is heard,
and every life is honoured.

Send us forth as people of hope,
committed to dignity, justice, and love.
We ask this in your holy name.

All: Amen.

Blessing

Leader:

May God bless us and keep us.
May Christ walk with us in solidarity.
May the Holy Spirit strengthen us
to live with courage, compassion, and hope.

And may almighty God bless us,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Suggested Bulletin and Parish Website/Social Media Messages that you may wish to consider using.

Short Bulletin Announcement

International Women's Day – Sunday 8 March 2026

Next Sunday, our parish will join the Archdiocese of Armagh and Dromore Diocese in celebrating **International Women's Day**. We will give thanks for the women who contribute so much to the life of our Church—through ministry, service, leadership, and quiet dedication. *All are invited to stay after Mass for a short parish gathering as we honour the women of our community. (Please adapt the italics with what is happening within your parish)*

Parish Website / Social Media Message

Celebrating Women in Our Parish – Sunday 8 March 2026

On **Sunday 8 March**, our parish will join the Archdiocese of Armagh and Dromore Catholic Diocese in marking **International Women's Day**. This day gives us an opportunity to recognise and give thanks for the many women who play an essential role in the life of our Church—educators, volunteers, ministers, leaders, and those whose unseen work supports our parish every week.

During Mass, we will include a *special prayer of thanksgiving, and we invite everyone to stay afterwards for a simple gathering as we honour the women of our community. (Please adapt the italics with what is happening within your parish).*

We give thanks for their dedication, faith, and service, which enrich the life of our parish and strengthen our mission.