



Current Issues in Prayer

April 2026

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.**



Getting started:

I take some time in silence to allow God's presence to guide my prayer. I bring to mind priests who serve in my parish.



Short story:

During Christmas celebrations in our parish, we parishioners were of one accord in that Fr Benjamin had managed to put together a lovely programme for Christmas Eve. My family had the privilege of working closely with this priest, and we could observe his qualities of enthusiasm, charisma and deep spirituality. Not a week later, the parish priest gave us quite a shock by informing us that Fr Benjamin was soon to leave the parish and to take up a new ministry elsewhere. I was taken aback, with many questions assailing my mind: Why remove Fr Benjamin? He has been here only a few months. Will all his good work be lost? At the end of Mass, I went to the sacristy only to discover Fr Benjamin holding his head between his hands. He was weighed down with heavy thoughts.



Approaching I gently said: "We are going to miss you Father!" With sobs, Fr Benjamin replied: "I am living Calvary during Christmas! I have no idea why I am being moved. I am being sent as a chaplain for the elderly, when I am still full of energy to be with youths! I cannot understand why they did this to me." I was startled by what Father said and could not say a word. But after some silent moments, I stammered: "We do not understand God's ways. We will keep you in our prayers, Father." "I really need your prayers! Thank you!" he replied.

These short moments with Fr Benjamin made me wonder about the personal life of the priest: challenges that priests live alone; the priest's humanity that feels fragile in front of the crosses that he has to carry; the need that the priest has of being surrounded by a community that is close to him.



Time to reflect:

What are my own thoughts about the life of a priest? Do I care that the priest is a human being just like myself? How do I respond to a priest who might be in a moment of crisis?



Let us pray:

Lord, I place before you all the clergy of my parish with whatever moments of darkness and challenges they face, and ask that you lead them always into the refuge of your love.



Inspiration:

It is necessary to pray for priests because they are so often forgotten by the living, since Christians often consider that priests do not need prayers.

St. Joseph Moscati



Hands on:

My Sunday Mass intention will be for the personal needs of the clergy in my parish. I will also be attentive to our priests who might be going through very difficult times.