



**Churches
in Ireland**
Connecting
in Christ

**Irish Inter-Church
Meeting**

Liturgy Resource on Housing Insecurity and Homelessness

Prayer of Approach

Leader: Our Father: we seek your presence with us as we gather to examine the serious challenge of housing insecurity and homelessness for our society.

Please, give us your spirit of love and wisdom, as we come as Christians and citizens to pray and try to discern the way forward.

Christ has tried to teach us that we should love our neighbours as we love ourselves *and* that how we respond to the least in society is as a response to You.

People: Help us to truly learn

Reading

Matthew 25: 31-40

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: We pray for everyone involved: [pause after each supplication]

For those who have no secure roof over their heads; who are exposed to the elements instead, or with only a tent or a hostel ceiling to look up at.

For those in emergency accommodation.

For those who are “sofa-surfing” or living in overcrowded family homes.

People: Lord, we ask for strength for them to endure society’s tardiness in finding a proper solution.

Leader: For action groups and for individuals who respond to their immediate needs.

For frontline workers who know they cannot meet people’s needs with the resources at their disposal.

For campaigners who work for longer term solutions.

People: Lord, we thank you for their commitment and perseverance.

Leader: For all who develop and implement policy: civil servants, local and national elected representatives, and Ministers in particular.

For voters as we make decisions at election times, that this issue may guide our choice of representatives.

For chatterers, that we do not disparage those in need.

People: Lord – give us compassion, we pray. Forgive us for any self-centredness and make us grateful for all we have been given.

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Irish Inter-Church Meeting**

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Amen.

Reading and Reflection

Mark 10: 17-22

Hymns

One or more of these suggested hymns could be used:

Brian Wren: "There's a Spirit in the Air"

Sydney Carter: "When I Needed a Neighbour"

Martin Leckebusch: "Show me How to Stand for Justice"

Bernadette Farrell: "Christ be our Light"

Ruth C. Duck: "Come Now You Blessed, Eat at My Table"

Graham Kendrick: "Beauty for Brokenness"

Closing Prayer for the Task Before Us