

**CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF FAITH  
THROUGH THE TEACHING OF VATICAN II**

*Holy Hour for January 2013*

*Decree on Ecumenism*

*Unitatis Redintegratio, 21 November 1964*

*Christ prayed that all his followers might be one. May we live with such love and charity that this prayer of Christ might find fulfilment in our time.*



*As the Blessed Sacrament is exposed during this series of Holy Hours to mark the YEAR OF FAITH let us sing each time the hymn that bears these words from St Paul 'We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight'*

**'WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT'**

*Celebration For Everyone No 789/ Laudate No 284*

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered,  
Look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated  
May be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

**Reader 1:**

'The restoration of the unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church only. However, many Christian communions present themselves to mankind as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but they differ in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ himself were divided. Certainly, such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages the most holy cause, the preaching of the Gospel to every creature. The Lord of Ages nevertheless wisely and patiently follows out the plan of his grace on our behalf, sinners that we are. In recent times he has begun to bestow more generously upon divided Christians remorse over their divisions and longing for unity. The Sacred Council...wishes to set before all Catholics guidelines, helps and methods, by which they too can respond to the grace of this divine call.'

*(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.  
Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio) No 1)*

**A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION**

**Reader 2**

**FIRST READING**      **EZEKIEL 37:15-19,21-22,26-28** (*Lectionary III, pg 510*)

*'THEY WILL NO LONGER FORM TWO NATIONS'*

**12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION**

*To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:*

**O THOU, WHO AT THY EUCHARIST DIDST PRAY**

*Celebration For Everyone No 556/ Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 559/ Laudate No 833*

*Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of unity.*

**Reader 1:**

'The term 'ecumenical movement' indicates the initiatives and activities encouraged and organised, according to the various needs of the Church and as opportunities offer, to promote Christian unity. These are: first, every effort to avoid expressions, judgements and actions which do not represent ...truth and fairness and so make mutual relations...more difficult. Then 'dialogue' between competent experts from different Churches and communities...Through such dialogue everyone gains a truer knowledge and more just appreciation of the teaching and religious life of both communions. In addition, these communions engage in that more intensive cooperation in carrying out any duties for the common good of humanity...They also come together for common prayer...Finally, all are led to examine their own faithfulness to Christ's will for the Church and, wherever necessary, undertake with vigour the task of renewal and reform.'

*(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.  
Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio) No 4)*

*A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION*

Reader 2

**SECOND READING**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13** (*Lectionary III, pg 514*)

**‘BE UNITED WITH A COMMON PURPOSE.’**

**12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION**

*To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:*

**THIS IS MY WILL, MY ONE COMMAND**

*Celebration For Everyone No 732 / Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 682/ Laudate No 921*

*Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of unity.*

---

**Reader 1:**

‘In ecumenical work, Catholics must assuredly be concerned for their separated brethren, praying for them, keeping them informed about the Church, making the first approaches toward them. But their primary duty is to make a careful and honest appraisal of whatever needs to be renewed and done in the Catholic household itself, in order that its life may bear witness more clearly and faithfully to the teaching and institutions which have been handed down from Christ through the apostles. For although the Catholic Church has been endowed with all divinely revealed truth and with all means of grace, yet its members fail to live by them with all the fervour that they should. As a result the radiance of the Church’s face shines less brightly in the eyes of other Christians and of the world at large, and the growth of God’s Kingdom is retarded. Every Catholic must therefore aim at Christian perfection...In all things let charity prevail.’

*(from the Documents of the II Vatican Council.  
Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio) No 4)*

*A PAUSE FOR QUIET REFLECTION*

**GOSPEL READING**

**JOHN 17:20-26** (*Lectionary III, pg 527*)

**‘MAY THEY BE SO COMPLETELY ONE’**

**12 MINUTE SILENT ADORATION**

*To conclude this time of adoration and reflection we sing:*

**WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT**

*Celebration For Everyone No 769*

*Other suitable hymns may be used highlighting the theme of the Church.*

---

**Leader:**

In humility of heart, let us pray to God who cares for everyone.

*Response to each prayer: Lord, strengthen the faith of your people*

**Reader 2:**

- Keep alive in your Church the strength of faith and the joy of believing. We pray to the Lord
- Renew your Church and help her members to be living examples of the unity and love of the Trinity. We pray to the Lord
- Strengthen all Church leaders and inspire them to lead the flock of Christ closer to that day when all the disciples of the Lord might be for ever one. We pray to the Lord
- Grant to those Christians who, because of past offenses, still bear animosity, suspicion and hatred to other Christians, a change of heart and open them to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord
- May the desire for unity amongst Christians help the Church to be an even greater sign of peace and justice to the world. We pray to the Lord
- Help those who have left the Church, particularly those disheartened by the seemingly slow path to unity, come to know once more that the path to great things is often slow and difficult but possible within the Church because Christ walks with us. We pray to the Lord
- Grant to the dead eternal life. We pray to the Lord

**BENEDICTION PRAYERS AND HYMNS NOW FOLLOW**

**BRING ALL YOU DEAR-BOUGHT NATIONS BRING,**

*Celebration For Everyone No 100 / Liturgical Hymns Old & New No 184*