

# RESPONSES TO OUR LISTENING

THE  
GOD  
WHO  
SPEAKS

WHEN LOCKDOWN STARTED WE INVITED A TIME OF SHARED LISTENING. WE'VE COLLATED THE FEEDBACK AND...

## 8 THEMES HAVE EMERGED:

1. The Absence of the Eucharist & closure of Churches
2. Loss, grief & bereavement
3. Social justice imperative
4. Disability
5. Remembrance, thanksgiving & rejoicing
6. Mental health
7. Metanoia & conversion
8. Scripture & a way forward



## JOIN US IN PRAYER AND REFLECTION ON THE 8 THEMES:

1. Read **James 4:8** and confess your sins to God before taking part in spiritual Communion with this prayer based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori:  
*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.*
2. Read **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**, then hold in your mind someone who is grieving right now and pray something like: *O Lord, comfort X, be their refuge at this time of loss and grief. Help me to support them today. Amen*
3. Read **Amos 5:21-24** - the nation Israel had turned their backs on the poor and vulnerable in their society and God rejects their worship as a result. God cares for all people. Meditate on the words of St Teresa of Avila: *“Christ has no body on earth now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.”* Pray to God and tell him what this stirs in you.
4. Cardinal Basil Hume wrote in the foreword of **Valuing Difference** in 1998: *‘The dignity of the human person is at the heart of Catholic teaching. Each and every person is to be valued as God’s creation. The Church’s vision is firmly rooted in the example of Jesus, who turned no-one away, but made himself available to all. This document, Valuing Difference, puts forward a vision for enabling people with disabilities to participate fully in the life and mission of the Church.’* Because of the lockdown many people living with a disability have less support at this time. Spend some time praying to God and tell him what this stirs in you, ask him to show you what you can do, to make sure others are included.
5. Read **Philippians 4:4-9** and give thanks to God, remembering the good things that have happened over the past few months as well as petitioning God about the difficult situations.
6. Read **Psalms 139:7-12** and spend some time thinking about how your mental health is right now and what this Psalm reveals about God. Pray for yourself and someone else who you know is struggling with their mental health right now.
7. Read **2 Peter 3:9** and call upon God’s mercy on behalf of those who are staying far from God.
8. Read **Psalms 119:97-112** and meditate on what Scripture being a lamp to your feet and a light to your path means. Ask God how we should look to the future.