

### **Script to Introduce DV Sunday in your church & the Archbishop's Prayer**

Today and next Sunday across the Anglican churches in Sydney churches will be taking a few minutes to consider the issue of Domestic Abuse.

We will be praying a prayer written by the Archbishop and watch a short video helping us understand more about the problem of domestic abuse.

*[Edit the above to reflect what you're doing in your church and then insert other things you will be doing]*

Over the last few years our diocese has been involved in developing a domestic abuse policy and guidelines to address the wickedness of domestic abuse.

You might notice we have posters around our church which are to alert us that there's no place for domestic abuse in our church.

*[insert other initiatives your church has done]*

Our prayer today is that those who have suffered because of domestic abuse will be assured that our church remains committed to supporting survivors. We also want to make clear that God calls husbands and wives to love one another, and that God condemns the misuse of power to control or exploit others.

*[insert anything else you want to say]*

**(see below for the Archbishop's prayer)**

### **A Prayer for Those Affected by Domestic Violence**

Gracious God,

We come before you in sorrow and humility, grieving the pain and injustice suffered by those who live in fear within their own homes.

We acknowledge with thankfulness that the Lord Jesus came to bring peace, not violence, healing, not harm. He welcomed the vulnerable, protected the weak, and stood against all that crushes the human spirit.

We pray for women, children, and men who are victims of domestic violence. Comfort them in their distress. Shelter them in your love. Give them courage to seek help and surround them with people who will act with compassion and wisdom.

We pray for those who perpetrate violence. Confront them with the truth of their actions. Lead them to repentance and transformation by your Spirit.

We pray for our churches, communities, and leaders. May we be places of refuge, not silence; of justice, not complicity. Help us to speak with clarity, act with conviction, and love with the heart of Christ. Lord, hasten the day when homes are havens of peace, and relationships reflect your grace.

We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.