

# Novena for World Day of the Poor

**DAY 3** SUNDAY  
7 NOVEMBER

**For those  
who experience  
isolation and  
vulnerability  
in old age**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Antiphon**

Father of orphans and protector of widows  
is God in his holy habitation.  
God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity.

Psalm 68

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **Scripture reading**

As he taught, he said,  
'Beware of the scribes,  
who like to walk  
around in long robes,  
and to be greeted  
with respect in the  
marketplaces, and to  
have the best seats  
in the synagogues  
and places of honour  
at banquets! They  
devour widows'  
houses and for the  
sake of appearances  
say long prayers. They  
will receive greater  
condemnation.

Mark 12: 38-40

Silent reflection on the  
word of God: ask the  
Holy Spirit to let the  
words touch your heart  
and speak to you in the  
here and now of your  
life in your community.

The scribes were among the religious professionals at the time of Jesus. They were highly educated and often well regarded for their observance of the law. What Jesus is highlighting and condemning, however, is their unscrupulous predatory behaviour which would drive people into poverty, especially the most vulnerable in the society such as widows, by benefitting from payments for offerings and services. They are more concerned about how they are seen and regarded by others than their relationship with God. Their ego is in charge, they are the centre of their world.

We pray for those in our community who are exploited in vulnerable old age, by those in authority, by landlords, by corporate interests. May we be attentive to the needs of the elderly in our community and seek to understand the ways in which they are sometimes reduced to poverty and insecurity.

**Loving Father  
your risen Son sent us out  
into the world as ambassadors  
for your kingdom of justice, love and peace;  
inspire us with your Spirit  
of compassion, justice advocacy  
and proclamation, to declare good news  
to the poor, liberty to captives,  
to let the oppressed go free.  
We make this our prayer  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

"The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future."

Pope Francis, *Message for Inaugural World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and Elderly*, 2021

"Saint John Chrysostom's admonition remains ever timely: 'If you want to honour the body of Christ, do not scorn it when it is naked; do not honour the Eucharistic Christ with silk vestments, and then, leaving the church, neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness'."

Pope Francis, *Message for First World Day of the Poor*, 2017