

**A Prayer
for
Protecting the Vulnerable
in Australia**

23 October 2017

The Structure of a Judicial Appeal to God Patterned on the Lord's Prayer

No	PART	The Lord's Prayer ¹	CONTENT
1	ADDRESS GOD	<i>Our Father in heaven,</i>	Bring Yourself before the One True God
2	WORSHIP	<i>hallowed be Your Name,</i>	Praise, Adore, Ascribe etc.
3	DECLARE	<i>Your² kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.</i>	Declare God's will and purpose based on the Truth of His Word
4	PETITION	<i>Give us today our daily bread.</i>	Bring relevant needs before God
5	CONFESS, REPENT and FORGIVE	<i>And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.</i>	Confess sins of commission and omission, sins of identification etc., repent, ask for forgiveness and forgive others
6	DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS	<i>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.</i>	In the Name of Jesus, take authority over every work and deception of the enemy and make it obedient to Christ
7	GIVE GLORY	<i>For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen</i>	Declare God's Kingdom authority and give thanks for the victory

¹ Parts 1 to 6 are from Matthew 6:9-13 NIV and Part 7 is from a 1988 **English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC)** version of the Lord's Prayer

² In this document, capitals are used for pronouns referring to God in the text and in the Scripture quoted.

WELCOME

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to this prayer for protecting the vulnerable in Australia.

This prayer is a judicial appeal to God. Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. It was about a widow who kept coming before an unjust judge with the plea *“Grant me justice against my adversary”*. Because of her persistence, the unjust judge relented and gave her justice. Jesus then interpreted the parable saying, *“And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? ... I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly”*.³ Our God hears our cries for help!

It is also a doctrinal spiritual warfare prayer. When Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days in the wilderness,⁴ He quoted the written Word of God to counter the attacks of Satan. This prayer is an attempt to follow the example of Jesus. And so you might feel led to pray this prayer during a time of fasting.

As shown in the table on the previous page, it is patterned on the seven parts of the Lord’s Prayer. All quotes from Scripture are taken from the New International Version (NIV). It is formatted so that it can be printed as an A5 booklet.

As it is a lengthy prayer it can be prayed through at different times. You can focus on different segments as you feel led. You may, for example, want to give more time to making petitions or you may feel a burden to pray for a particular stronghold.

Before praying this prayer you might like to pray the Lord’s Prayer itself. Then I recommend that you ask for God’s protection over yourself, family, friends, church fellowship and all you are doing for the Lord.⁵ After praying this prayer you might like to sing songs of victory into the heavenly realms.

The euthanasia debate is complex and highly emotional. I respectfully ask for your forbearance for any part of this prayer with which you may disagree. I don’t want it to become a stumbling block. Please adapt this prayer according to Your conscience. Your suggestions on how to improve this prayer are very welcome.

So much is at stake for the future of our nation. Please share this prayer with others. As we pray for protecting the vulnerable in Australia, let us declare with the apostle Paul, *“thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”*.⁶

Yours faithfully,

David Rowsome

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³ Luke 18:7,8

⁴ Luke 4:1-13

⁵ You can use Psalm 18:1-3, Psalm 91:1-16, Romans 8:28-39, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:6-11 and Revelation 12:10-12

⁶ 1 Corinthians 15:57

ADDRESS GOD

Gracious Father, Our Strong Deliverer, the One True Living God,

WORSHIP

“I will sing of Your great love for ever; with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that Your love stands firm for ever, that You have established your faithfulness in heaven itself”.

*“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; love and faithfulness go before You. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You, who walk in the light of Your presence, O LORD”.*⁷

You are *“the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love. You do not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities”*.⁸ We give thanks and praise to You that *“while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*.⁹ For You *“so loved the world that You gave Your one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”*.¹⁰

Indeed You are *“the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps His covenant of love”*.¹¹

Thank You that Your Word assures us that nothing *“will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* and that *“we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”*.¹²

Thank You for the precious privilege of interceding for protecting and cherishing the vulnerable in Australia knowing that the *“Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express”* and that Jesus is at Your right hand and *“is also interceding for us”*.¹³

DECLARE

God in Heaven, this day we bring before You the push to deliberately promote and encourage the killing of those who are most vulnerable in Australia. In particular, we bring before You those who are terminally-ill, the elderly, those with mental illnesses and the disabled whose quality of life is deemed to warrant death by killing. We are grieved that killing through euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide are being sold to the Australian people under the guise of euphemisms such as ‘*assisted dying*’ and ‘*death with dignity*’. But it is not ‘*the right to die*’ that is being promoted but ‘*the right to kill*’ and ‘*the right to be killed*’!

Euthanasia challenges Your divine sovereignty and the sanctity of human life. It is one of the defining moral issues of our day.

⁷ Psalm 89:1-2, 14-15

⁸ Psalm 103:8-10

⁹ Romans 5:8

¹⁰ John 3:16

¹¹ Nehemiah 9:32a

¹² Romans 8:37-39

¹³ Romans 8:26,34

Almighty God, we declare that You alone are the Giver and Sustainer of life and the One who takes it away. You are the One true God who *“gives all men life and breath and everything else”*.¹⁴ In You *“we live and move and have our being”*.¹⁵ Life and death are in Your hands. It is You who *“brings death and makes alive; ... brings down to the grave and raises up”*.¹⁶ Only You can rightfully decide life and death. Murder and suicide are therefore an affront to You.

Our God who dwells in eternity knows the appointed time for each person to finish his or her life on earth. King Solomon wrote *“there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die ...”*.¹⁷ King David declared in one of his psalms *“all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be”*.¹⁸ In another psalm he wrote, *“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants”*.¹⁹ In Hebrews we read that *“people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment”*²⁰ which shows the finality of death so death does not lead to multiple reincarnations. We have this one life to live and then afterwards each of us must give an individual account to You.

Death is an unwelcome intruder that became normal for every member of the human race after Adam and Eve fell into sin in the Garden of Eden. But Jesus came to earth and suffered and died on the cross that we might have *“life, and have it to the full”*²¹. Your Word declares that *“Christ died for our sins”* and was *“raised from the dead”* as *“the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep ... for as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive”*.²² Hallelujah!

Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead, and is alive forevermore, is the proof of our eventual resurrection to eternal life. And so the apostle Paul declares that the resurrected Christ will one day conquer all evil, including death saying *“For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death”*.²³

But until that time, the death we all must face at the end of our earthly lives is often preceded by much suffering. Even so, countless ordinary men and women have testified to the unique character development that can come out of suffering. The apostle Paul wrote, *“but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope”*.²⁴

We are therefore so glad that Jesus testified to how valuable every person is to You, saying to His hearers, *“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your*

¹⁴ Acts 17:25

¹⁵ Acts 17:28

¹⁶ 1 Samuel 2:6

¹⁷ Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a

¹⁸ Psalm 139:16

¹⁹ Psalm 116:15

²⁰ Hebrews 9:27

²¹ John 10:10

²² 1 Corinthians 15:3,12,20,22

²³ 1 Corinthians 15:25-26

²⁴ Romans 5:3-4

head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows".²⁵

We are therefore particularly grieved that Australia, like many Western nations founded on the truth of Your Word and Judeo-Christian values, is now rejecting the foundational truth of the sanctity of human life. Even though You have clearly stated in Your Word that You hate the shedding of innocent blood, much of our society has been seduced to believe that euthanasia and assisted suicide is a compassionate solution to suffering.

Loving Father, we declare that while You hate the shedding of innocent blood, no sin is too great for You to forgive. So great is Your compassion that You are *"not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance"*.²⁶ Thank You for calling us to be ministers of Your amazing grace and of Christ's love and compassion to men and women who have yielded to killing others who are vulnerable through euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide. We steadfastly resolve to pray for those who seek to have their lives ended and *"speak the truth in love"*²⁷ to them.

PETITION

Righteous God, we ask that You protect the vulnerable in Australia. We acknowledge that in ourselves we are powerless before our political leaders, euthanasia advocacy groups, the media and leading academics and overseas influences who want to legalise and promote euthanasia and assisted suicide in Australia. Our society stands at a critical point in time, when all that we cherish about the sanctity of human life is gravely threatened. We acknowledge that *"we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You"*.²⁸

Abba Father, the apostle Paul fearlessly proclaimed Your truth during the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Nero. He urged that *"supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way"*.²⁹ For Your Word states that *"the king's heart is in the hands of the LORD; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases"*.³⁰

We pray that in the euthanasia and assisted suicide debate that You put a guard over our mouths by Your Holy Spirit, so that our words convict but do not condemn.

As we take part in the national debate let *"no weapon formed against us prosper"*. Help us *"to refute every tongue that rises against us in judgment"*.³¹ Give us the strength and perseverance to fight this battle. Cause us to be sober and vigilant watchmen.

²⁵ Matthew 10:29-31

²⁶ 2 Peter 3:9

²⁷ Ephesians 4:15

²⁸ 2 Chronicles 20:12

²⁹ 1 Timothy 2:1-2

³⁰ Proverbs 21:1

³¹ Isaiah 54:17

Your Word tells us that *“the person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit”*.³² Jesus said to those who were ready to kill Him, *“He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God”*.³³

O God, reveal Yourself to our political, civic, corporate, medical, academic and church leaders who support or who have compromised on the issue of euthanasia and assisted suicide. For those who have not invited Your Son Jesus into their hearts, bring them to repentance, faith and life in the Lord Jesus Christ. By the convicting work of the Holy Spirit, bring them to faith so that their names will be written in *“the book of life”*.³⁴ Jesus said, *“no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him”*.³⁵ For those who are already believers, reveal to them by Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, any matter where they have been seduced or deceived. Have mercy on our leaders. May a reverent and worshipful fear of God³⁶ come upon them. Open their eyes and unblock their ears to the horror and the injustice of this agenda to deliberately kill the most vulnerable in our society. We bring before You –

- Daniel Andrews (Premier of Victoria who is pro-euthanasia)
- James Merlino (Deputy Premier of Victoria who opposes euthanasia)
- Richard Di Natale (Leader of the Greens Party which is pro-euthanasia)
- Andrew Denton (media figure who is an active proponent of euthanasia)
- All Federal, State and Territory Supreme Court Justices
- All State and Territory Premiers
- Australian Medical Association which holds a position against euthanasia
- Members of the Joint Committee for End of Life Choices in WA
- MPs in NSW as they consider the Voluntary Assisted Suicide Bill 2017
- Dr Philip Nitschke (the founder and director of Exit International)
- GetUp! (an activist group with 1.1 million members that avoids pro-life campaigns)
- (others as you feel led)

God our *“Lawgiver and Judge”*,³⁷ be with our Prime Minister and political leaders, newspaper columnists and church leaders as they take part in the euthanasia and assisted suicide debate.

Let media, social media and other discussions bring these moves to encourage state-sanctioned killing of the elderly, the terminally ill, those with mental illnesses or dementia, those who are depressed and the disabled out of the shadows and into the public square. Give advocates (pray by name as you feel led) courage, wisdom and the right words to say.

Gracious Father, we have no desire to stand in personal judgment on the men and women who have resorted to euthanasia or assisted suicide – those who have lost

³² 1 Corinthians 2:14

³³ John 8:47

³⁴ Revelation 3:5

³⁵ John 6:44

³⁶ Proverbs 14:26,27

³⁷ James 4:12

hope or have no idea of God and Your eternity. We want to say instead, “*with You there is forgiveness*”.³⁸ For Christ died for our sins and rose again and offers everyone who comes to Him in repentance a new beginning. Your Word says “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us of our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness*”.³⁹ This is the gospel of Christ.

Sovereign God, thank You that You use Christian ministries to bring awareness to the Body of Christ and to the general public. Give them Your strategies to address this reproach to our nation. Enable them to spur us on to boldly pray and speak out against the entrenchment of legalised euthanasia in our society. We bring before You these organisations, their leaders and workers -

- Australian Christian Lobby
- Australian Family Association
- Australian Prayer Network
- Canberra Declaration
- Christian Federation
- Culture Watch
- Emily’s Voice (not to be confused with EMILY’s List)
- Endeavour Forum
- FamilyVoice Australia
- Hope: No Euthanasia
- National Alliance of Christian Leaders
- National Civic Council
- Pro-Life Victoria
- Right to Life Australia
- (others as you feel led)

Almighty God we ask that You give the Body of Christ the courage to speak fearlessly in unity and strength. Thank You for Bill Muehlenberg of Culture Watch who wrote ‘*The Challenge of Euthanasia*’ in 2016. Thank You for Paul Russell, the founder and director of Hope: No Euthanasia who has worked tirelessly for the past seven years. Thank You for Dr Michael Gannon, the national president of the Australian Medical Association, who speaks out against euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. The protection and cherishing of the vulnerable in Australia is pivotal to the future of our nation. Move us to contend for the saving of many lives that could potentially be lost to euthanasia and assisted suicide. Stir us to pray and make a stand on behalf of the vulnerable!

CONFESS, REPENT and FORGIVE

Holy God, we now confess our part in not dealing with those things in our society that have made us susceptible to the introduction of euthanasia and assisted suicide. We bring before You our actions and lack of actions which have undermined the Judeo-Christian foundations of religious freedom, marriage and family and the sanctity of human life.

³⁸ Psalm 130:4

³⁹ 1 John 1:9

- We confess our part in **looking to the wisdom of man** and not *“humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God”* as set out in our Constitution. We are sorry for our ingratitude for all the blessings You have bestowed upon us. In our affluence we have vainly imagined that we do not need You. O God, forgive us.
- We confess **our hardness of heart** toward the wanton and widespread killing of Aboriginal men, women and children in our nation’s history. The lawless and unbridled hunting down of individuals and massacres of whole communities is a national disgrace that we have tried to minimise or ignore in our history books. We have failed to adequately recognise the horror of this shedding of blood by our forefathers. We have not empathised with the sorrow that has come down through the generations in Aboriginal communities. O God we are sorry! Break our hearts and unblock the tears which need to flow from our eyes.
- We confess our **prayerlessness in regard to the on-going effects of the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s**. This rebellion against You separated sex from procreation and then sex and procreation from marriage. It is now pushing for abortion on demand for any reason up until the day of birth. We are sorry for not resisting Satan, the instigator of the Sexual Revolution, as we ought. In our apathy we have let things spiral down. Please forgive us.
- We confess our **complacency with no-fault divorce** to the extent that the number of divorces have dramatically increased since the Sexual Revolution. We are sorry that the divorce rate amongst Christians is also high. This has left behind a legacy of fatherless or motherless homes. Many young children are living with undeserved rejection and disillusionment, blaming themselves for the break-up of their parents. They have not been listened to and their lives have been permanently scarred. We have lacked real empathy. Have mercy on us.
- We confess our **silence in allowing legalised prostitution to go unchallenged**. This sends the message that sex outside a marriage relationship is wholly acceptable. Many times sexual union results in unwanted pregnancies that end up as abortions. Often couples do not know that sex is a sacred part of the mystical one flesh union of a husband and wife. Since the Sexual Revolution, sex has been reduced to a commodity that can be purchased in any registered brothel. We have not adequately confronted this evil. Please forgive us.
- We confess our **indifference to the teaching of atheistic evolution in our schools**. This unproven worldview has convinced a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution that they are just another animal on the evolutionary ladder. We are sorry that we have allowed our schools to continue teaching that man is just a cosmic accident and that emotions such as love are just evolutionary mechanisms which help to ensure the survival of the fittest. Without You, life is meaningless. Without You, there is no accountability for how we live and no right or wrong. In our dullness we have not spoken out. Please forgive us.
- We confess our part in **allowing the insidious pornification of our society**. This means that a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution cannot escape early and frequent exposure. Indeed our society has been so saturated with pornography that our collective attitude toward sex has been poisoned with

perversion, violence and self-gratification. We are appalled at what goes into our children's minds through television, the internet and public advertising. Such things have hastened the sexualisation of our children and robbed them of their childhood. For too long we have been looking the other way. Have mercy on us.

- We confess our **lack of outrage for the shedding of innocent blood of unborn babies through abortion**. This has wiped out a third of a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution. We are saddened that more and more children and young adults are realising that they are the 'survivors' that their parents' generation chose not to kill. This conditions survivor children to more readily recommend euthanasia for their parents when they become elderly or otherwise 'inconvenient'. We mourn for the atrocious and deliberate killing of approximately 4 million unborn Australian babies. As Christians we have lived with that reality and have turned a blind eye. Our hearts cry out! O God, we are sorry. Have mercy on us. Help us to *"speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves"*.⁴⁰
- We, believing that human life begins at conception, confess our part in the **abandonment of newly-conceived babies to modern technologies**; those mercilessly killed in abortion procedures and consigned to waste bins and incinerators; those killed and expelled from their mother's womb by abortifacient drugs such as RU486; those that are stored as embryos in freezers for the possibility of future use and later quietly destroyed; those placed in test tubes for embryonic stem cell, genetics and cosmetics research. It is an ironic tragedy that innocent lives are killed in order to make life better for others. O God we are sorry. Deal with our callous hearts. Forgive us and have mercy on us.

Your Word says *"Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God for He will freely pardon"*.⁴¹ We now repent and turn from these sins.

We ask You Father to have mercy on us and forgive us. Give us wisdom, discernment and strength to resist the continuation of these sins that have shaped a whole new generation since the Sexual Revolution. Burden our hearts in such a way that we take steps to overcome these evils. Help us to make restitution or restoration where these are needed. Please also move us to forgive and have compassion on those who are perpetrators of these things. In many cases they do not know what they are doing. Stir us to pray and fast for revival so that the Church and society will be transformed. Then the lives of the vulnerable will be seen once again as sacred in our society.

DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS

Almighty God, though we are dismayed by all that is happening ... we now take our stand. Your Word says that *"our struggle is not against flesh and blood"*⁴² and that

⁴⁰ Proverbs 31:8

⁴¹ Isaiah 55:6-7

⁴² Ephesians 6:12

“the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world”.⁴³ Thank You that these weapons *“have divine power to demolish strongholds”*⁴⁴ and that we can *“demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”*.⁴⁵ Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”*.⁴⁶ Jesus also promised *“I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it”*.⁴⁷ We therefore now target, in the Name of Jesus, specific spiritual strongholds which militate against protecting and cherishing the most vulnerable in Australia.⁴⁸

We affirm that the shed blood of Jesus on the cross, His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension has utterly defeated Satan, the enemy of our souls. Jesus declared him *“a murderer from the beginning”* and *“a liar and the father of all lies”*.⁴⁹ Now as Satan is *“filled with fury”*, causing as much damage as he can, *“because he knows his time is short”*,⁵⁰ we affirm that Your Word tells us to *“resist the devil, and he will flee from you”*.⁵¹ We therefore humbly submit ourselves to You and appropriate and claim by faith the victory of the finished work of Jesus Christ who, *“having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross”*.⁵²

As we pray and demolish the strongholds of Satan, we affirm our full authority and position of victory over Satan and all of his kingdom of darkness.

Stronghold 1 – Targeting the Most Vulnerable

In the Name of Jesus, who at His crucifixion was *“disfigured ... despised ... rejected ... afflicted ... led like a lamb to the slaughter”* and *“cut off from the land of the living”*⁵³ we ask that You rebuke and restrain Satan, who is heinously targeting the vulnerable throughout the world today to be killed by euthanasia and assisted suicide. We are grieved that in recent years Satan has targeted the world’s most vulnerable groups of people – the elderly, the disabled, the terminally ill, those with mental illnesses and even children - for killing. He will stop at nothing.

While human suffering arouses Christian compassion we cannot accept euthanasia as a just response. Help us to do everything possible to respect the sanctity of human life and find ways to help the vulnerable, their families and carers in the difficult situations they face.

⁴³ 2 Corinthians 10:3

⁴⁴ 2 Corinthians 10:4

⁴⁵ 2 Corinthians 10:5

⁴⁶ Matthew 18:18

⁴⁷ John 14:13-14

⁴⁸ Underscores added

⁴⁹ John 8:44

⁵⁰ Revelation 12:12

⁵¹ James 4:7

⁵² Colossians 2:15

⁵³ Isaiah 52:14, 53:3,7,8

Your Word says *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction”*.⁵⁴ O God we are grieved at how our culture, which for decades has allowed abortion for children in the womb, is now embracing euthanasia and assisted suicide for the elderly. First it was parents in our Western societies who began killing their children, now the surviving children are killing their parents! O God help us to repent of the decades of the shedding of innocent blood of vulnerable unborn babies through abortion.

It also grieves us to see what has happened in countries where euthanasia and assisted suicide have already been legalised. It is sobering that wherever state-sanctioned killing has been legalised they have always expanded to include more and more groups of vulnerable people.

God of Compassion and Justice, by *“the saving power of [Your] mighty right hand”*⁵⁵ we ask that You snatch away the vulnerable in Australia and the world that Satan intends to murder. Place them out of his reach! We pray that You *“the God of peace will soon crush Satan under [our] feet”*⁵⁶ so that we will see the saving of many lives until life’s natural end.

Stronghold 2 – The Devaluing of Those with Special Needs

In the Name of Jesus, who willingly reached out his hand and touched a man with incurable leprosy and made him clean,⁵⁷ who restored *“a woman subject to bleeding for twelve years”*⁵⁸ who had touched Him, and who healed *“a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years”*⁵⁹ telling him to *“Pick up your mat and walk”*, we ask that You rebuke Satan who relentlessly works to devalue and discourage the vulnerable in our society - those who need a helping and healing hand and acceptance. The life and ministry of Jesus clearly shows us that we have a moral responsibility to care for the vulnerable.

We therefore reject as totally false and abhorrent the modern-day claim that quality of life, convenience and economic concerns are the over-riding considerations of who is worthy of life and who is better off dead. This attempt to devalue, *‘write off’* and do away with those with special needs by those who advocate for euthanasia and assisted suicide, does not recognise that every human life is precious to You. You are their Creator. You have a plan and purpose for every life!

Your Word says *“the Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons”*.⁶⁰

By the power of Your Holy Spirit help us to declare to Australian society that every man, woman and child is made in the image and likeness of God and has intrinsic and equal value from conception to life’s natural end.

⁵⁴ Galatians 6:7-8a

⁵⁵ Psalm 20:6

⁵⁶ Romans 16:20

⁵⁷ Matthew 8:2-3

⁵⁸ Matthew 9:20

⁵⁹ John 5:5

⁶⁰ 1 Timothy 4:1

Stronghold 3 – Bestowing the Right to Kill and to be Killed

In the Name of Jesus, who said *“do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul”*⁶¹ we ask that You rebuke Satan who delights in the shedding of innocent blood through euthanasia and assisted suicide.

While Australians are a compassionate people, help us to never support killing an individual through euthanasia or to help someone with their suicide. Collectively as Australians we have a duty of care for the vulnerable members of our society. Sadly, the euphemistic descriptions of euthanasia and assisted suicide such as *‘assisted dying’* or *‘death with dignity’* are very misleading. While the deaths of vulnerable citizens are indeed the result, these practices are in the final analysis not about dying but about killing. In a similar vein the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide does not give individuals the *‘right to die’* but the *‘right to be killed’* by a physician or by their own hand.

Your Word says, *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter”*.⁶²

When we elevate euthanasia as a solution it exerts a poisonous effect on the practice of medicine. Euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide defy the truth of Your Word. They completely overturn present longstanding medical ethics. This drastically changes the relationship between doctors and their patients which is based on trust. Every doctor potentially becomes an agent of state-sanctioned killing and so the trust would be fundamentally breached. Furthermore this duty to kill goes against the Hippocratic Oath which states *“I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody if asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect.”* In forswearing the giving of poison when asked for it, the physician rejects the view that the patient's choice to be killed can make killing him or her right.

O God, this is a threshold that must not be crossed!

We therefore pray to You that doctors will resolve to operate with absolute repugnance to killing any of their patients. We declare in the Name of Jesus that all Australian doctors and nurses and health-care workers would have no role in deliberately ending a patient's life or assisting a patient to end their own life.

Stronghold 4 – The Tolerating of State-Sanctioned Killing

In the Name of Jesus, of whom it was prophesied *“a bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out”*,⁶³ we ask You to rebuke and restrain Satan who has desensitized our society to tolerate the state-sanctioned killing of the vulnerable in our society by euthanasia and assisted suicide.

We are appalled by the way that voluntary euthanasia could become a civic duty or even elevated to a virtue in our society. Any society which can tolerate state-sanctioned killing has ceased to be civilised. O God we are racing toward judgment!

⁶¹ Matthew 10:28

⁶² Isaiah 5:20

⁶³ Isaiah 42:3, Matthew 12:28-21

Shake us so that we will truly repent and no longer tolerate such things. In the Name of Jesus we ask You to break the power of the enemy behind the Culture of Darkness and Death which supports killing through euthanasia and assisted suicide in Australia.

O God we ask You to awaken, break and burden our hearts to protect the vulnerable in our society. In the Name of Jesus, we ask that You destroy, once and for all, these murderous works of Satan. Use us to bring in the Culture of Light and Life!

Stronghold 5 – Convincing Society that the Vulnerable are a Burden

In the Name of Jesus, who told the parable⁶⁴ of the Good Samaritan to show us how we are to care for one another, we ask that You rebuke Satan who convinces society that the elderly, the terminally ill, those with mental illnesses, the lonely and the disabled are a burden and not worth the effort.

It is already commonplace for patients to tell doctors in the presence of their loved ones that they feel they are a burden on their families. But the sick, the elderly, the disabled, the chronically ill and the dying must never be made to feel they are a burden on society.

It is easy to make physician-assisted suicide sound compassionate and dignified. But it is neither. We acknowledge that valuing the sanctity of human life does not mean staving off death at all costs with aggressive end-of-life treatment. Help us to actively suggest life-affirming options for the vulnerable such as hospices and palliative care. Be especially close to their carers in this regard.

Father God, thank You that being a vulnerable person with special needs does not take away a person's inherent value and dignity as a human being. Help us and their carers to see those afflicted and vulnerable as people who bear Your image. Regardless of the extent or stage of their condition, fill our hearts with compassion and help us to treat each person as unique with inherent value and dignity.

Thank You that in heaven believers with terminal illnesses, disabilities and lost mental capacities will receive totally new glorified bodies and minds. In the Name of Jesus, help our society not to be seduced to believe the lie that euthanasia is '*death with dignity*' and is a solution to human suffering.

Stronghold 6 – The Influence of Mammon

In the Name of Jesus, who said "*you cannot serve both God and Money*",⁶⁵ we ask You to rebuke Satan who further degrades the practices of euthanasia and assisted suicide with a love of money. Jesus warned that serving "*Money*" or "*Mammon*" leads to a covetous love of money that claims people's hearts and causes them to turn away from You and do things that are shameful.

⁶⁴ Luke 10:25-37

⁶⁵ Matthew 6:24

The administration of a lethal dose to patients in pain distorts the motives of all involved. Insurance companies, hospital staff, government agencies, and even family members suddenly have an increased financial stake in a speedy death.

We pray for greedy children watching their coveted 'inheritance' going towards taking proper care of their parents. We pray for those citing high medical costs to sustain the vulnerable as an excuse for euthanasia. For them medical killing is seen as the most cost-effective way to 'treat' patients who put pressure on the budget. We pray for the unscrupulous doctors in other countries complicit in killing through euthanasia and assisted suicide when receiving a commission for each patient they kill.

We pray for almost every country in the developed world where birth control and abortion are practised, facing population implosion due to fertility rates dropping below replacement level. In many countries more people are dying each year than are being born. There is a growing fear that there may be more people of retirement age than taxpayers can support. When this happens some may want to make it a citizen's duty to die.

In the Name of Jesus, expose the twisted ethics and lack of scruples of the practices of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Bring revulsion to our society for the killing of the elderly, the terminally ill, those with mental illnesses, the depressed and the disabled. In the Name of Jesus, we refute and demolish these deplorable and twisted lies.

Stronghold 7 – The Self-Destructiveness of Suicide

In the Name of Jesus, who sought out and saved a violent demon-possessed man who was naked, lived among the tombs and cut himself with stones⁶⁶, we ask You to rebuke Satan and his legions of demons who drive people to acts of desperation such as self-harm and suicide.

Killing another innocent person is murder, and killing oneself is self-murder. The devil who Jesus declared is "*a murderer from the beginning*" is determined to destroy men, women and children because they are Your image-bearers.

In the Name of Jesus, we declare that suicide is a hideous lie from Satan.

A person demands self-determination in order to extinguish the self. A person seeks to use his or her autonomy only to end personal autonomy. In the name of choice, people claim the right to choose to cease to be choosing beings. Suicide seems to be the ultimate oxymoron!

Legalising voluntary assisted suicide sends the wrong message to people contemplating suicide and undermines suicide prevention efforts. People struggling with depression, a sense of purposelessness, low self-esteem, loneliness, and hopelessness will be more likely to commit suicide. There is already such a huge

⁶⁶ Mark 5:1-20

problem with suicide among young people in the Western world, that any laws giving a green light to physician-assisted suicide will simply make things much worse.

With suicide such a pressing problem throughout the Western world, it is ludicrous to go down the path of legalised euthanasia and assisted suicide.

In the Name of Jesus, give us by Your Holy Spirit wisdom and words to refute the lies of the enemy that confuse people and drive them to self-destruct through suicide.

Stronghold 8 – The Scheming of Exit International

In the Name of Jesus, *“the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth”*,⁶⁷ we ask You to rebuke and expose Satan and his demonic forces who are behind those who devise and carry out wicked schemes to kill the vulnerable.

We bring before you Exit International which advocates for euthanasia, runs workshops around the world and makes killing manuals available online. We pray also for its founder, Dr Philip Nitschke, also known to the public as Dr Death. He campaigned successfully to have euthanasia passed into law in Australia's Northern Territory in 1995 as the first euthanasia laws in the world! He then assisted four people in ending their lives before the law was overturned in 1997 by the Government of Australia. We grieve that Nitschke as an Australian was the first doctor in the world to administer a legal, voluntary, lethal injection, after which the patient activated the syringe using a computer.

O God, we take note that the head office of Exit International is in Darwin which was named in honour of Charles Darwin, the *‘father’* of evolution. Evolution erroneously claims that human beings are a cosmic accident and therefore just another animal. And so just as a pet dog or cat is euthanised by a lethal dose of nembutal so Exit International prescribes the same for human beings.

O God, our hearts cry out at how evolution negates not only belief in You, but denies that men and women are spiritual beings and that eternal life in heaven after death is a reality. Evolution is undoubtedly one of the greatest causes of atheism today. It may not, therefore, be a coincidence that the city of Darwin is also the seat of the Northern Territory government which was the first and only jurisdiction in Australia to legalise euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Your Word says that *“There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community”*.⁶⁸

In the Name of Jesus we cut off the roots of the stronghold of atheistic evolution which sustains Exit International, so that, as an organisation it will wither and die.

Gracious God, by the truth of Your Word and by the power of Your Holy Spirit reveal Yourself to Dr Nitschke and the membership of Exit International and draw them to Yourself. Lead them to repentance that they might find life.

⁶⁷ John 1:14

⁶⁸ Proverbs 6:16-19

Stronghold 9 – Misplaced Compassion

In the Name of Jesus, who *“wept”*⁶⁹ and was *“deeply moved in spirit and troubled”*⁷⁰ at the death of His friend Lazarus, we ask that You rebuke and banish Satan who instigates and delights in human suffering.

While Australians are a compassionate people, our compassion should never drive us to support killing an individual through euthanasia or to help someone with their suicide. Collectively as Australians we have a duty of care for the vulnerable members of our society.

Thank You that when Jesus saw Mary, the sister of Lazarus, and others weeping He wept with them even when He knew that He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus showed that He cares enough for people to weep with them in their sorrow. Your Word records other times when Jesus saw crowds of people and *“had compassion on them”*⁷¹ before He ministered to their needs.

Thank You for the modern-day example of Joni Eareckson Tada a famous author and speaker who has been a quadriplegic since she was 16. She spoke to a young married woman who had brain cancer and was considering euthanasia. Thank You that You gave Joni the compassion to share with her how the love of Jesus had sustained her through her chronic pain, quadriplegia and cancer. Joni didn't want the young woman to find a temporary reprieve by being euthanised and then *“wake up on the other side of her tombstone only to face a dark, grim existence without life and joy; that is, without God.”*

Your Word says *“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust”*.⁷²

O God, give us Your compassion for those experiencing what they think is *‘enduring and unbearable suffering’* and are looking into euthanasia or considering assisted suicide! Help us to point them to You so they can experience Your strong and loving arms, Your comfort and compassion and beyond that, even Your deliverance and healing!

Stronghold 10 – False and Deceptive Safeguards

In the Name of Jesus, who said *“I am the way and the truth and the life”*,⁷³ we ask You to rebuke and neutralise Satan whom Jesus warned his hearers about, saying *“when he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies”*.⁷⁴

And so we are outraged by the satanic lies behind the Culture of Darkness and Death that the law can authorise killing and assisted suicide in the name of compassion and yet at the same time somehow protect the vulnerable.

It is foolhardy to accept that individuals should have this right to be killed yet pretend it will not transform the ethics of society. It is reckless and irresponsible to allow the

⁶⁹ John 11:35

⁷⁰ John 11:38

⁷¹ Matthew 14:14

⁷² Psalm 103:13-14

⁷³ John 14:6

⁷⁴ John 8:44b

culture of killing the vulnerable to permeate into family, health and medical life. The dream of euthanasia without social damage is just that - a false and seductive dream.

Safeguards are only made where things can potentially go wrong. Many safeguards can only mean the likelihood of many problems.

It is almost universally agreed that adults *do* have the right to make informed choices about their medical treatment, including opting for withdrawal. But euthanasia and assisted suicide are different. These practices involve medical practitioners in acts that will deliberately result in death.

Incapacitated vulnerable people are being surreptitiously killed. Doctors in End of Life Clinics in the Netherlands do not provide real care for the patient but only support to alleviate suffering by killing him or her.

Thank You for Australian doctor Karen Hitchcock who has boldly stated *that “No panel of doctors or booklet of rules, no ream of checks and balances can prevent [patients wishing they could die] based on new social norms.”* Instead she says *“I hope for a society with the values and resources to allow us to say – ‘Don’t be scared. We will attend to you, ease your pain, witness your anguish. No, we will not kill you’.”*

In the Name of Jesus, give us discernment by the power of the Holy Spirit to detect falsehoods and lies behind the dangerous practices of euthanasia and assisted suicide that would undermine the sanctity of human life in Australia.

Stronghold 11 – The Desensitizing of Society

In the Name of Jesus, who came that we *“may have life, and have it to the full”*⁷⁵ we ask that You rebuke and restrain our enemy, the devil, who *“comes only to steal, kill and destroy”*.⁷⁶ He seeks to repeatedly stab and gouge out the heart of a humane and civilised society based on Judeo-Christian foundations.

O God, we realise that this is not about how any particular person might prefer to die. This is about what sort of civilisation we will become and what damage we perpetrate in the name of autonomy, self-determination and choice. It is about the total ethical and compassionate framework for our society. The warnings could hardly be more serious.

We acknowledge before You that allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide repudiates the sanctity of human life which is a pivotal cornerstone of Western society. All humans, young or old, sick or well, suffering or not, possess a human dignity from You O God, that cannot be swept aside. There is an intrinsic and equal worth in humans regardless of age, health, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation such that state-sanctioned killing through euthanasia and assisted suicide is a threshold that should not be crossed. Once the door is open it will only go wider and wider!

Furthermore we grieve with You that euthanasia and assisted suicide is traumatising to medical practitioners who are life-affirming in their approach to patients. By law, in some jurisdictions, doctors will be forced to violate their consciences and witness by taking part in euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide.

⁷⁵ John 10:10

⁷⁶ John 10:10

Euthanasia and assisted suicide tear the fabric of our society to shreds. Already we clearly see in countries around the world such as the Netherlands and Belgium, how euthanasia and assisted suicide inevitably lead to horrific abuses.

In the Name of Jesus, we refute the lie of the enemy that killing through euthanasia and assisted suicide is an act of mercy and a solution for many problems in society.

Stronghold 12 – The Tyranny of Eugenics

In the Name of Jesus, who “*went from village to village*”⁷⁷, preaching the Kingdom, healing the sick, raising the dead and casting out demons⁷⁸, we ask You to rebuke and confound Satan who inspired the eugenics movement which labels certain groups of people as ‘*human weeds*’, ‘*substandard*’, ‘*undesirable*’, ‘*unworthy of life*’ and ‘*disposable*’.

In the Name of Jesus, we refute the lies of eugenics as a social agenda that seeks to remove ‘*genetically defective*’ humans from society by means of abortion, sterilisation and euthanasia. We demolish the foundations of the eugenics movement when in the 1890’s Sir Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin, first coined the term ‘*eugenics*’. It is a macabre irony that the word ‘*eugenics*’ literally means ‘*good life*’.

Eugenics is based on Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution that human life is governed by ‘*the survival of the fittest*’. It was Margaret Sanger who then popularised eugenics in the early twentieth century. Hitler used her teachings and writings in his attempts to achieve ‘*racial hygiene*’ and genetic cleansing of the ‘*master race*’.

The Nazi T4 Euthanasia Programme began in 1940 by killing the intellectually and physically disabled through involuntary euthanasia, supposedly for reasons of compassion. But it wasn’t long before these vulnerable people became known as “*useless eaters*” and “*undesirables*”. This program kept expanding to include the extermination of entire races of people in the death camps. O God, we are horrified how the attitudes of a once-Christian nation so quickly changed.

We are alarmed that even though the eugenics movement lost momentum when it was associated with the Nazi horrors of World War II, today we are seeing its resurgence. In the Name of Jesus, we cut off the roots of the eugenics movement that support modern-day euthanasia initiatives.

We come against and smash and demolish the eugenics lie that the vulnerable are not worthy of life and might be an unbearable burden on the family and on society as a whole. In the Name of Jesus, we nullify this lie from the enemy who Jesus referred to as a murderer. Restore in us a heart of compassion that values and protects our most vulnerable citizens.

Eternal Father, the reality of euthanasia is sickening. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are huge social changes which are fraught with dangers than can lead to

⁷⁷ Luke 9:6

⁷⁸ Matthew 10:8

horrific abuses. We are appalled with the sustained push to kill the most vulnerable in our society. It is a massive open assault of Satan and all the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms against You and against the Judeo-Christian foundations that have made Australia a great place to live. It is not enough for us that euthanasia and assisted suicide remain illegal. We pray that You will use us to persuade hearts and minds so that it becomes unthinkable.

In the mighty Name of Jesus, we demolish, tear down, smash and destroy every satanic stronghold set to kill the elderly, the terminally ill, those with mental illnesses and the disabled in Australia. Your Word says that the followers of Jesus *“overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony”*.⁷⁹ We rejoice in the victory that Jesus won at Calvary *“through His blood shed on the cross”*.⁸⁰ May You be glorified through the protecting and cherishing of the vulnerable in this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit!

GIVE GLORY

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are His judgments”.⁸¹ We see You, Sovereign God, coming with power. You rule with a mighty arm. Your purposes cannot be thwarted.⁸²

“Blessed be Your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise.

You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship You”.⁸³

“[Your] works are perfect and all [Your] ways are just”.⁸⁴ *“[You are] faithful to all [Your] promises and loving toward all [You] have made”*.⁸⁵ *“[You] are near to all who call on [You], to all who call on [You] in truth”*.⁸⁶ *“Your compassions never fail. ... Great is Your faithfulness!”*⁸⁷

Thank You for the promise of Jesus that we may ask for anything in His Name and He will do it *“so that the Son may bring glory to the Father”*.⁸⁸ Thanks be to You, O God, *“You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”*.⁸⁹

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever”.⁹⁰ *“To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen”*.⁹¹

⁷⁹ Revelation 12:11

⁸⁰ Colossians 1:20

⁸¹ Revelation 19:1

⁸² Isaiah 40:10

⁸³ Nehemiah 9:5b-6

⁸⁴ Deuteronomy 32:4

⁸⁵ Psalm 145:13

⁸⁶ Psalm 145:18

⁸⁷ Lamentations 3:23

⁸⁸ John 14:14

⁸⁹ 1 Corinthians 15:57

⁹⁰ 1 Timothy 1:17

⁹¹ Romans 16:27