April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and while all our activities have been cancelled, the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth would like to share Mass petitions for the Universal Prayer / Prayer of the Faithful. These may be used in any recorded / live streamed parish Masses:

• May God the Merciful Father bring comfort and healing to victims and survivors of sexual abuse within the Church.

• That the Holy Spirit may guide Church leaders as they promote justice and healing for victims and survivors of abuse.

• For our Holy Father, that he may fulfill his role as good shepherd, and protect the most vulnerable in his flock.

• That all civic leaders act in ways that show their commitment to the protection of all, especially children and young people.

• That all who work with children and young people be vigilant in protecting them from harm.

• For all families, that they may strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.

• That those who have been abused experience Christ’s profound love for them and God’s healing powers.

• For all who provide help for the abused may act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministries.

• That God may grant those affected by abuse in anyway the courage to tell their story and seek healing.

• That all priests and religious, through their teaching and witness, may lead children and young people to holiness.

• That all bishops continue to carry out their promise to protect, and pledge to heal, the most vulnerable in their dioceses.

• That all parish communities affected by abuse may find healing and reconciliation through the Blessed Virgin Mary.