Dear Father in heaven, we acknowledge with gratitude the privilege that is ours to come together this morning, as leaders in Government, leaders in business and leaders in the community to call upon you in prayer.  We recognise that there are many in this world who do not enjoy such freedoms.

Father we pray to you with humility.  We acknowledge our own failings; we acknowledge our sin and inadequacies.  We know that it is only through you, through the sacrifice of your son Jesus, that we can overcome our human condition.  We thank you for your saving grace.

We look to your son as our light and our guide.  We pray for your help as we seek to follow his example of humility, of compassion, of selflessness. We pray for your help as we seek to follow his example of strength, of faith, of forgiveness.

Father at this time, we pray particularly for our Civic and Church Leaders, especially those who serve within the City of Sydney.  We are mindful of the considerable weight of responsibility that rests upon their shoulders.  Please help them to carry the mantle of their office and act always with honour, dignity and respect for the people they serve in their electorates, their jurisdictions, their parishes and congregations.  Father bless them with a steel-like courage that they might fight against injustice and the misuse of power, that they might stand in defence of the vulnerable in our community, that they might always strive to be a disciple of Christ.

We are mindful of the many dedicated public servants who provide critical care and services to the people of Sydney, particularly our police, ambulance, fire, community group leaders, our nurses and medical practitioners.  These people are often exposed to significant stress, trauma and personal risk as they carry out their work and we ask your special blessing upon them.

Father we pray for the leaders who preside over the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.  We pray that through their diligence and careful stewardship, victims of abuse, together with the institutions they once trusted, might begin a process of healing.   We pray for those whose faith has been shaken because of the wrongdoing of others.  We pray that through your mercy broken hearts might be mended.

Father we pray for our Civic and Church Leaders and those who serve in our community in the name of our Lord Jesus, Amen.