

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (13 September 2020)

Liturgy and Prayer Resources for Catholic Communities During Suspension of Liturgical Celebrations Due to Coronavirus (2020)

During the period of suspension of public liturgies in response to the Coronavirus crisis, Catholics can take heart from one of the key decrees of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) on Christ's presence in the liturgy:

"Christ is always present in his Church, especially in its liturgical celebrations. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of his minister, 'the same now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross' but especially under the Eucharistic elements. By his power he is present in the sacraments, so that when a man baptises it is really Christ himself who baptises. He is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church. He is present, lastly when the Church prays and sings, for he promised: 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them'" (Mt 18:20).

[Vatican Council II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1963) art. 7]

If parishioners pray at home at the same time they would normally be together praying at Mass, there is a very real sense in which two or three are gathering in Christ's name, in the unity of their prayer rather than of their physical person. Individual and family prayer based on the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours and other sources provides members of parishes and families with an opportunity to honour Christ's presence in the domestic Church as those present pray to God in thanksgiving for gifts received, and for the needs of the Church and the world.



RESOURCE PREPARED BY THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

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VARIOUS PRAYER RESOURCES

WEBSITES

- [Liturgy Brisbane](#)
- [Liturgy Help](#) (Creative Ministry Resources)
- [Masses Online and Prayer Resources](#) (Australian Catholic Bishops Conference)
- [Pray.com.au](#) (Jesuit Publications)
- [Pray with the Pope](#)
- [Universalis](#)

CREATING SPACE FOR PRAYER

1. Create a prayerful, welcoming space;
2. Include familiar liturgical symbols: water, cross, Bible, greenery/flowers and others as appropriate;
3. Light a candle and utilise music and singing;
4. Foster a reflective atmosphere of praise, thanks and intercession.

Today is Child Protection Sunday 2020. Read the full statement and access resources here: catholic.org.au/ChildProtectionSunday

CONFITEOR

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to hear God's word.

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

OR

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate God's word.

Lord, Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

SEASONAL HYMN

SIGN OF THE CROSS

V. In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

V. With one heart and one mind let us bless the Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the way, the truth and the life.
Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

R. Blessed be God for ever.

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of Good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer:
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy
on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Ecclesiastus 27:30 – 28:7 (JB)

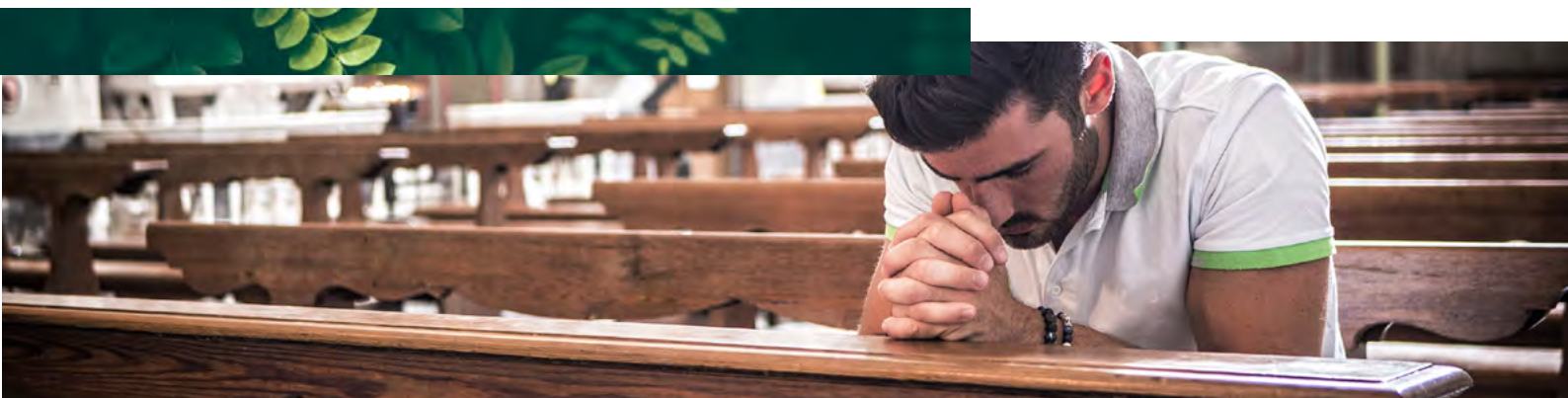
***Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray,
your sins will be forgiven.***

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance
of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the
commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your
neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the
offence.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 102: 1–4, 9–12 (JB)

R. The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 14:7–9 (JB)

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others;
if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for
the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This
explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that
he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 13:34 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21–35 (JB)

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Peter went up to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.’

‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said, “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.’

‘Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me,” he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt.’

‘His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said. “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION

NEVER FORGET GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Today's first reading and Gospel contain wise and important teachings on the need to forgive others. Resentment and anger not dealt with are foul things. We know this but at times we still find it hard, even impossible, to forgive.

Perhaps the best way to begin to address forgiveness is to follow the lead of today's responsorial psalm and focus on the forgiveness and compassion of God. In this much-loved hymn, the psalmist marvels that God's mercy is in no way proportionate to the offence: 'God does not treat us according to our faults'. Nor is God's forgiveness partial. No, 'God forgives all our guilt and heals all our wounds'.

Perhaps one reason why God is all-forgiving is because God is all-knowing. God, who created us, knows our human frailty. In a beautiful verse from this psalm, not included in today's liturgy, we read: 'God knows how we are formed, remembers that we are dust'. We, for our part, can forget human frailty and demand from one another and from ourselves a perfection of which only God is capable.

If we remember the abiding mercy of God towards us, and if we can be forgiving of our own failings, we will be more able to forgive wholeheartedly the brother or sister, husband or wife, parent or child, friend or enemy who wrongs us.

Michael Goonan SSP

THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL

In the Gospel Acclamation verse today we hear Jesus say, 'I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.' This verse charts a new and supremely challenging way of life for the person who follows Jesus. We are commanded to love other people the way Jesus loves us. Jesus loved his disciples 'to the end,' giving up his life rather than deny all that he had taught and shown them about how God really is.

When Jesus commands us to love, he is not talking about sexual attraction or friendship, both good things. Jesus uses a word that expresses a choice to want the best for the other person, even if there is no natural attraction to that person. This word, *agape*, names the love between Father, Son and Spirit. It is a deliberate, sustained willing of the very best for other persons.

That love shows itself in positive actions towards other people and a complete lack of negative or destructive action against them. Each of the readings for today advises us about these positive and negative behaviours. We are not to 'nourish anger against one another.' No one of us is the whole picture: 'whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.' Above all, Jesus himself teaches that our world is held in God's forgiveness, a powerful act of love. Because God forgives me, I can forgive others. This is *agape* love.

Trusting that God's forgiveness is the environment in which we live, we sing the Psalm response, 'The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.'

Michele Connolly RSJ

St Pauls Publications and the authors have allowed the publication of this reflection to support the spiritual needs of Catholics unable to attend Mass at this time.



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(All bow, up to the word “man”)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

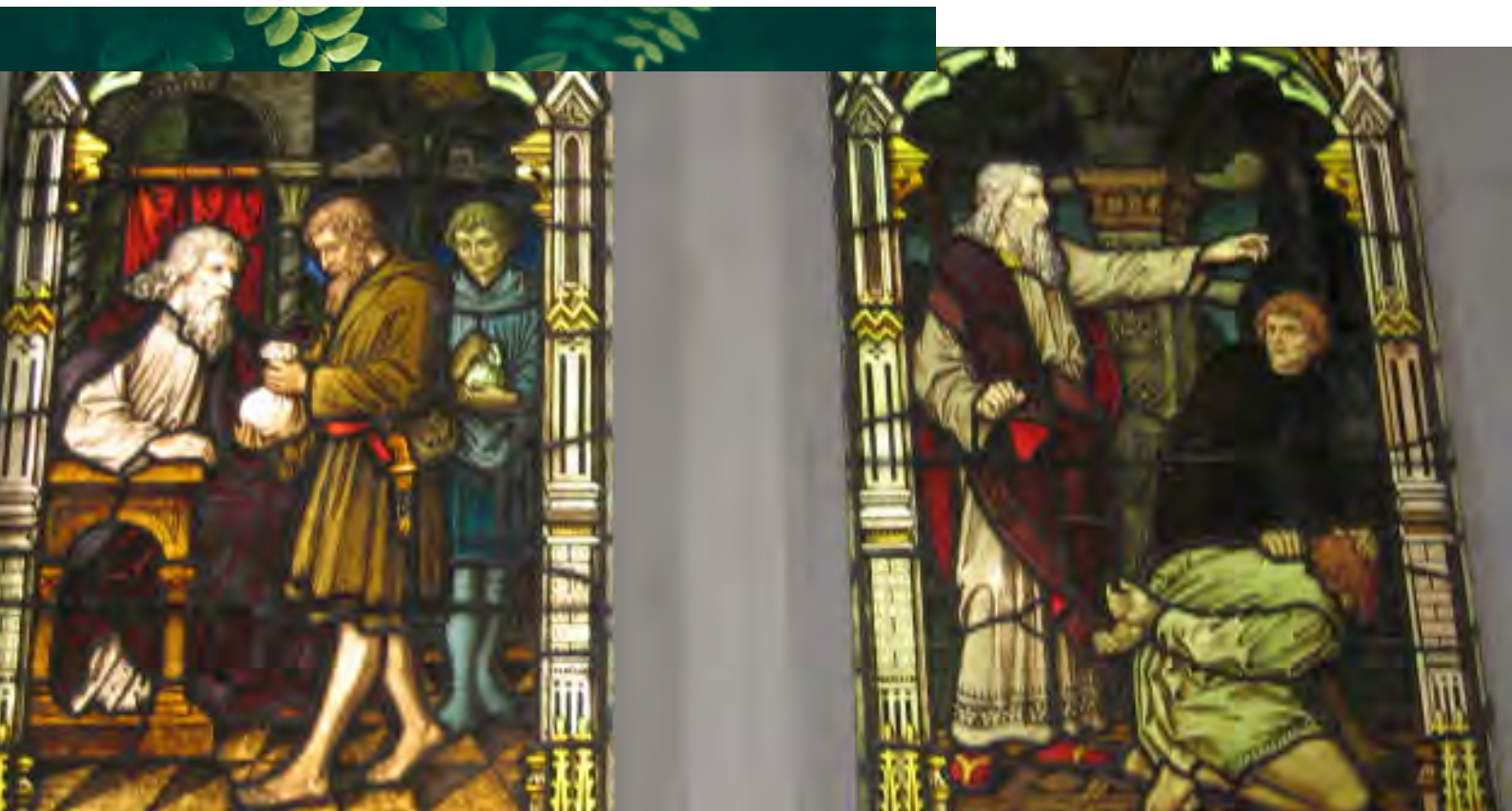
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Amen

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Introduction

As followers of the Lord Jesus, we are called to pray for all
in need, particularly those who suffer and those in need of
healing.



Intentions

We pray for Pope Francis, and all bishops, clergy, religious and lay faithful: that through their preaching and practices of pastoral ministry they will provide positive example to all members of society about the proper love and protection of children. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer

On this Child Protection Sunday, we pray for all leaders of national, state and local government: that they will develop legislation and strategies to protect children from all forms of abuse and that will foster their flourishing as young people and adults. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all parents, family members and educators: that they will build home and school environments and relationships based upon mutual love, care and respect. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all affected by natural disasters, human catastrophes and atrocities, or accidental misadventure, particularly N. _____: that those who lost their lives will find peace and rest in Christ and that local communities, families and individuals will be strengthened to assist the injured and to rebuild their lives. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all who have died recently, especially the victims of the COVID-19 virus and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially N. _____. That they will rest in the peace of Christ and rise in glory on the last day. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer

Conclusion

Loving and merciful God, slow to anger and rich in compassion, we ask you to grant our petitions through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us join our prayers with the prayer Jesus gave us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

St Alphonsus Liguori, alt. (1696-1787)

CONCLUSION

Leader: Let us pray.

May the working of your heavenly Word, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Let us go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

CONCLUDING SEASONAL HYMN OR SONG OF PRAISE/THANKSGIVING

PSALM AND CANTICLES FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

COMMON PSALM FOR ORDINARY TIME

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**
4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

BENEDICTUS (Morning) Luke 1:68–79 (ICET tr.)

All make the sign of the cross.

1. Blessed be + the Lord, the God of Israel;
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
2. Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies, from the
hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.
3. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
4. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most
High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
5. In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
6. Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

MAGNIFICAT (Evening)

Luke 1:46–55 (ICET tr.)

All make the sign of the cross.

1. My soul + proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
2. From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
3. He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
4. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
5. He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.
6. Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS (Night)

Lk 2:29–32; (ICEL tr.)

**R. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake;
watch over us as we sleep,
that awake we may keep watch with Christ,
and, asleep, rest in his peace.**

1. Lord, + now you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled. **Ant.**
2. My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people. **Ant.**
3. A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel. **Ant.**
4. Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be fore ever. **Ant.**

PRAYER FROM VOTIVE MASS FOR THE SICK

[*Roman Missal (2010) p. 1378*]

Collect

Let us pray:

O God, who willed that our infirmities
be borne by your Only Begotten Son
to show the value of human suffering,
listen in kindness to our prayers
for our brothers and sisters who are sick;
grant that all who are oppressed by pain,
distress or other afflictions
may know that they are chosen
among those proclaimed blessed
and are united to Christ
in his suffering for the salvation of the world.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

*The National Council of Churches, who have invited all of
us to pray this prayer at 7pm each day:*

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and
overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or
grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain
all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment
amidst the many choices and decisions
facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do
to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations,
with all that is on our hearts,
we gather now and pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Almighty and all-merciful God,
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
in whom there is no shadow of death,
save us in this time of crisis;
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
watch over all medical people
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
that hope may never die
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,
may shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.
Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith
firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.
Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial,
but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed
Virgin.

Translation by Catholic News Service