

## Call to Prayers

### Prayers for Use especially during the Coronavirus Outbreak while our Churches, Schools, and Special Ministries are closed

#### Prayers to begin each day during this time

O Lord God, from whom we come, in whom we are enfolded, to whom we return: bless us in our pilgrimage through life; with the power of the Father protecting, with the love of Jesus indwelling, and the light of the Spirit guiding, until we come to our ending in life and love eternal; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*Bishop Peter Nott*

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Collect for the Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany based on a prayer by William Bright*

#### A Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those children who will go hungry with no school meals. May we who have to cancel our trips remember those with no place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for quarantine at home remember those who have no home. As fear grips our country let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour, whose arms of love embrace us all. Amen.

*Cameron Wiggins Bellm (alt.)*

#### A prayer about the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### **For those in isolation**

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid, or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

*Collect for All Saints' Day*

### **For those who are worried and for social cohesion**

Loving Jesus, you are compassionate to those in need  
and heal the sick in body and mind.

Look kindly on those who are fearful at this time.  
Help us all to put away all thoughts and actions  
that separate us from you and from one another.  
Give us grace to live our lives confident in your promise  
that you are with us always. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to care for the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake. Amen.

### **For those who are ill**

Merciful God,  
we entrust to your unfailing and tender care,  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For hospital staff and medical researchers**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **From one who is ill or isolated**

O God,  
help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe that nothing can separate me  
from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,  
'I am with you always.'  
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.  
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,  
and keep me in your care. Amen.  
Christ be with me,  
Christ within me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ beside me,  
Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,

Christ in quiet,  
Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*From St Patrick's Breastplate*

I am giving you worship with all my life,  
I am giving you obedience with all my power,  
I am giving you praise with all my strength,  
I am giving you honour with all my speech.  
I am giving you love with all my heart,  
I am giving you affection with all my sense,  
I am giving you my being with all my mind,  
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.  
Praise to the Father,  
Praise to the Son,  
Praise to the Spirit, The Three in One.

*adapted from Alexander Carmichael, Carmina Gadelica (1900)*

### **A prayer for the world**

God of love and hope,  
you made the world and care for all creation,  
and yet the world feels strange right now.  
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.  
Many are anxious because of it;  
many are anxious that they might become ill;  
many are anxious about their family and friends;  
Many are anxious about their parents, their children, their jobs and their security.  
Be with us in our worries and help us to find some peace.  
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists  
who are working to discover the right medicines to give hope to those who are ill. Thank  
you that even in these strange and worrying times,  
you are with us.  
Help us to look for the signs of your goodness and love towards us,  
and keep our hearts always in your love;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O gracious and holy Father,  
give us wisdom to perceive you,  
diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you,  
a heart to meditate upon you,  
and a life to proclaim you,  
through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Saint Benedict*

## **Prayers when we cannot receive Holy Communion**

In union, O Lord Jesus Christ, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I join in offering the sacrifice of my praise and thanksgiving to you. I present to you myself, my soul, and my body, with the earnest longing that I may ever be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you in this Holy Sacrament, come spiritually, I pray you, into my heart. I unite myself to you, and love you with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength. Let nothing ever separate me from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so may my soul be healed by the same faith in you, whom I cannot now receive in the Sacrament of Holy Communion; through your tender mercy, for you live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

*Adapted from Prayers from the Anglican Diocese of Melanesia*

## **Short passages of Scripture for reading and contemplation**

Psalm 27, Psalm 46, Psalm 91 and Psalm 139

Psalm 27 Dominus illuminatio