

Thought for the week
Easter Sunday
4th April, 2021

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,
we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.
Amen.

The Easter proclamation is one we have probably heard from an early age, it is such a part and parcel of our faith and we have heard it so often, that perhaps we take it for granted. G. K. Chesterton once said that familiarity is the greatest of all illusions. He said that we need to learn to look at things familiar, until they look unfamiliar again, and then we will see the beauty and power of those things anew, with fresh eyes. This Easter we have the opportunity to do this as we are able to return to St Michael's Church to celebrate the Easter services once again with Father Michael in St Michael's church, after last years enforced absence.

This weekend we can open our eyes and our hearts anew: and amidst all the challenges, difficulties and sorrows we may have experienced in the past year, we are reminded this weekend of this sure and sustaining truth – God loves us without limitation; enough to share with us His only son who held nothing back and gave us His life, so that we may have life without end in His rising from the dead that first Easter day.

The enormity of this act of perfect love hits me frequently; especially at these key moments of our worship together. Christ gave up his Godhead, became man, then suffered humiliation and an agonising death that I might have eternal life. Each and every one of us is personally known to, and loved by God, to the extent that He died for us. When I think of what Christ has done for me, I long to do something for him, but it can be so hard to do so on a daily basis. We know we can't earn His love. We know we can't repay His gift so dearly given. However, we can acknowledge that gift, in the way we live our lives. We can share that love with all those around us.

We have come through Lent, our period of reflection and self-denial and, rightly, move into the joy of our Risen Lord. Please don't leave Lent completely behind you. I know I don't want to. I want to continue to reflect on my actions and my words; I want to continue to be a better person – to move each day towards the vision of me that God has – the vision of me that led him to the Cross. Will you join me?

May the joy of Easter fill your hearts and minds; and may we all work to spread Easter joy wherever we go, and in whatever we do.

A parishioner



Prayers Please

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who died recently.

Please pray for Rita Lonsdale.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid and has entered a rehabilitation centre where he is being helped to learn to walk and feed himself again.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Elenor and Arnold Fox, Harry and Mary Gardner, Jim Roginski, Bridie McGarry, Paddy Hickey, Josephine Legge, Lilian Muston, Harry Selway, Ina Dias, Lilian Everett, Maggie Monter, Kathleen Regan, Harry Fry, Katinka Werfhorst, Lyn Lewis