

Thought for the week
3rd Sunday of Lent
14th March, 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.

Today is Mothers' Day! Hurray! Rejoice! Whilst fathers now play a much bigger role in the lives of their children, it is still mothers who take the larger portion and have a unique and blessed role to play. Today is also known as Laetare Sunday: Rejoice, seek hope, find encouragement. We are over the hump in our lent observances and Easter beckons. The priest can choose to wear rose coloured vestments today and mothers may find bunches of flowers come their way, but for all of us there is the promise of that unique gift: life with Christ.

As it says in the second reading '*We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning*'. That sentiment is made clear in today's gospel.

God loved the world so much he gave us Jesus to show us how to live and bring us closer to God. Just as mothers receive special attention today, so we are reminded that God loves us all no matter who we are or where we come from.

John reminds us that, whilst Jesus is the light that came into the world, people prefer the darkness - we find it easier to hide our sin. Jesus came into the world to reveal our sin so that we can be forgiven. Jesus will be raised up on the cross and in his ascension back to heaven, so that those who believe will have eternal life. This is the good news, the reason for our rejoicing now and throughout our lives.

In all of this there is a call to commitment to '*Look up and live*'. The sacrament of reconciliation is one step in our journey to redemption. I will try to use this week to seek a greater awareness of God's wonderful gift that frees us from the darkness of exile to the light of joyful living. Laetare: Rejoice!

A parishioner



Prayers Please

Please pray for Michael Coulehan whose funeral is on Wednesday.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, whose funeral is on Tuesday.

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 remains in hospital due to the coronavirus.

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 Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

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;

Dorothy Flannex, Sister Mary Joseph Murray, Molly, Marnie Connors, Donna Armstrong, John, Vera, Alan Dant, Doreen Felicidade Petricia D'Souza, Henry Kerr, Tess Lynch, Mary Weir, Molly Luby, Mary Fallon.