

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.

**Thought for the week**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**16th May, 2021**

*“He was lifted up while they looked on.”*  
Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

On a walk up to our local park, I saw a game of football was in progress. It was so lovely to hear the enthusiastic cries of children, in this case perhaps 2 full teams of girls aged 10 or 11. What joy to hear what has been so absent over this past year in which we've been forced to lie low and venture out little.

As I passed the teams, who were clearly loving being able to play together unrestricted, I looked up to the end of the park and saw a dark bank of clouds dwarfing the line of houses below. It looked huge and ominous, and in my mind at that moment I thought it like a symbol of the pandemic that has overshadowed us. But, at the edges around this hulk of cloud was the sharp relief of brilliant sunshine. This along with the joyous cries of children below, playing football, undeterred, seemed to symbolise and end to the grip of the illness we've battled against.

Like the Lord on the special feast day last Thursday, we are in our way ascending to the higher ground of love connection, unhindered connection and expression of love, joy, playfulness – away from the remote screens and face to face.

As we do, we can reflect on those who didn't make it through and to the courage of those who risked their health to keep us going.

As in Mark's reading today:

*“They will pick up snakes in their hands and be unharmed. They will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.”*

Lord may we receive your power when the Holy Spirit comes, so that with grace and love, we can re-join our friends, families and communities.

A Parishioner



## Prayers Please

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;**

Fr. Robert O'Neill O.F.M., Fr Xavier O.F.M. Lissu Savvin, Kenneth Pereira, Mary Fry, Francis O'Neill, Julia Pearce, Mary Smith.