

Thought for the week  
17th May, 2020  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

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.

This Sunday's readings have a similar thread in that they not only provide a message of hope in the Risen Christ, but a promise of what great things we, like the disciples, can do, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The growth and spread of the early church is demonstrated by very dramatic accounts of miracle healings, shrieking evil spirits abandoning those possessed, cripples and paralytics walking and no doubt praising God after receiving Philip's healing message, to everyone's rejoicing.

It is interesting that Peter and John then went to Samaria, to baptise those who received the message of Christ, so that they could receive the Holy Spirit, as well, having only previously been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.

I wonder why this extra bit of information is added. I wonder whether it is because as humans, we need a permanent, lasting companion, to always be on our side.

We are told in the Gospel that we have this companion, The Advocate, but only if we keep the Father's commandments. And that means we will not have to face all life's challenges on our own.

I hope that this can be of some assurance during this period of isolation. The spirit of healing is definitely looming on some, but not all affected by the Corona Virus. No doubt we will all rejoice once a cure or vaccine is found - the healing may not be as dramatic as that experienced during the early church. We know that healing happens at many levels and so this may be a time to appreciate our neighbours, to appreciate roles once taken for granted and the many gestures of kindness shown.

We pray that this will not just be the flavour of the season, but that all the goodness we see and share around us stays with us and continues to heal the world.

Yvonne Mubanga



### Prayers Please

Please pray for James Mintoff grandson of The Hardiman's, who has coronavirus—he is a trainee nurse.

Please pray for Irenka's sister Ludmila Morris who is a teacher at a school open for keyworkers' children—they have no PPE.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 7 and has recently started chemotherapy for leukaemia.

Please pray for Maddy Sharman who has started a new round of chemotherapy.

Please pray for Antonita's nephew Peppin who is in intensive care.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please prayer for all teachers — those still going into schools to give lessons to children with parents working on the frontline and those working out the technology to deliver their lessons from home.

Please pray for family and friends who work on the front line in the NHS and in the Care sector.

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



**Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time** including; Kenneth Pereira, Mary Fry, Francis O'Neill, Lissu Savvin, Julia Pearce, Mary Smith, Margaret Andrews, Jack Graham, Brian O'Dowd.