

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**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**2nd May, 2021**

In today's gospel Jesus refers to himself as the True Vine and his followers are the branches. Vineyards are not planted to make the countryside look pretty, but for the fruit they yield and what that fruit is used for. I guess most of us enjoy a glass of red, white or rosé with a meal. Or maybe the meal is unnecessary. Vineyard owners go to a lot of trouble to get the best yield from their vines and the best quality grapes. Part of the process (according to the gardening expert Monty Don) is to prune back hard every year since vines always fruit on new growth.

As followers of Jesus, we are branches growing from the 'True Vine' and there is an expectation that we should produce abundant fruit. That fruit are all those people who come to recognise and have faith in the one true God, and reject the false gods of this world, because of our faith and our witness to it. This metaphor makes it clear if we do not remain close to Jesus, we will bear no fruit. Jesus came to dwell within us at our baptism through the Holy Spirit and was reaffirmed at our Confirmation. He comes to us in the Eucharist, when we read his word, when we pray. He is close to us; we must choose to remain close to him.

There will be times when we face difficulties or have doubts concerning our faith, times when we are being pruned. It is times such as these, that as a parish community, we must show our love and give encouragement to one another, so that we can experience new growth and bear fruit more abundantly.

During this month of May let us ask Mary to unite us more closely to her son Jesus so that together we can produce abundant fruit for his kingdom.

Deacon Brian



## 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;**

James Allison, Robert Brown, Gunter Plum, Philip Hoban, George Pascoe, Jean Howarth, Romano Martin Rodrigues, Anthony Stitt and Richard Stitt, Margaret Bonner Mowbray, Mr Benedict Chin Siew Onn, Bernard Coffey, Vincent Gavin, Maggie Monter.