

Thought for the week
24th May, 2020
Ascension

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 we celebrate Jesus' Ascension back to be with his Father in Heaven. Although he was no longer physically present with the Apostles and his public ministry and mission was at an end, for his followers it was only the beginning for they were now charged with continuing Jesus work, proclaiming the good news and building God's kingdom. That work is also our mission. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles reminds the Apostles that they would not be alone, but that the power of the Holy Spirit would come to them breathing new life and strength that would sustain them in the challenges to come. That message is also our message.

As I see it, the Ascension is not the end of an era nor is it a sad occasion but rather the opposite: it is a new beginning; Certainly a challenging beginning but one we are all part of and one where we can be the face and voice of Jesus in a world longing for hope, peace, equality and justice.

It seems that our lives today are in many ways so similar to those of the Apostles as we tentatively try as a nation and as a world to find a new way of living with Covid19 unsure of what our next steps should be. The apostles must have felt much the same as they prepared themselves to venture out on Jesus mission. Recently many of us have been stretched and tested in ways we never imagined, yet all around we see evidence of those who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to care for others. As we go about our lives this week, let's remember that even as Jesus left this world, his thoughts and prayers were for those he was leaving behind.

In the words of Cardinal Vincent Nichols:

'To have eyes for the good things of the Lord is to live by faith, to see life with the eyes of faith.' Whatever happens in the coming days remember Jesus' word is our path, his truth is our light, his Spirit is our strength.

A parishioner



Prayers Please

Thank you for your prayers for James Mintoff grandson of The Hardiman's, who has recovered from coronavirus — and is back working as a trainee nurse.

Thank you for your prayers for Antonita's nephew Peppin who is now out of intensive care, but remains in hospital.

Please pray for Peter Bussell who has Alzheimer's disease and for his daughter who is now his main carer.

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

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 remember in your prayers Geoff Kew who has died.

Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including; Dan Mulrooney, Nancy Keogh, Joan Selway, Rita Worklex, Laddie Perl, Peggy Dodd, Patrick Keogh, Eugene Lavalette, Andy Tait, Mary "Jo" Clay, Maurice de Silva, Basil Iwasyki, Brenda Pearce.