

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  
26th April 2020  
Third Sunday of Easter

Hopefully you will have the opportunity to participate in one of the many Masses being live-streamed from around the world this weekend. If you do, you will hear the Gospel tell of the two disciples of Jesus walking away from Jerusalem towards Emmaus. If you do not have an internet connection then read Luke 24: 13-35 in your bible or Sunday missal.

On the day Jesus rose from the dead the two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem. All their expectations had been dashed. Their hope had been that Jesus would set Israel free from the tyranny of the Roman occupation; that a new 'Golden Age' would dawn. The reality was that he had been executed. He was dead. It was all over. What was the point of staying in Jerusalem?

Is there something familiar with what happens next? They hear the words of Scripture proclaimed and interpreted and then participate in the 'Breaking of Bread.' Their eyes are opened. He who was dead is alive and freedom has been won, not from the Romans, but from sin and death. Mankind is reconciled to God. Alleluia!

Each time we gather for Mass we follow in the footsteps of the two disciples. The Scriptures are proclaimed and interpreted leading us to a deeper understanding of God's plan of salvation and Jesus' pivotal role. Then the bread that has been blessed is broken and given to us. As we hear the Scriptures read do our hearts burn within us? As we receive Holy Communion are our eyes reopened as to whose presence we are in?

Perhaps, due to familiarity, we have lost some of our sense of awe and wonder at being in the presence of the living God during our participation in Mass. It could be that our enforced deprivation of the Eucharist during this pandemic will reawaken our appreciation of this great gift, so that when we are next able to gather together our hearts will burn within us and our eyes be reopened to recognise the risen Jesus amongst us. Then like the two disciples we will be moved to tell others that Jesus has risen from the dead and that he is the source of our joy and hope.

Every blessing during this Easter season

Deacon Brian



A memory of last year's Easter flowers

### Prayers Please

Please pray for Susanne who is expecting her first baby any day now.

Please pray for Ilona who has not been well.

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 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 Pray for the repose of the souls of:** Father Anthony Conlon, Patrick Fitzpatrick (Father Paul's father), Ann Hendry (a friend of Krissie's), who have died recently.

**Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time** including; Norah, Bourne, Edna Walsh, Peadar Farrell, Charles Halter, Mary Burns, Gilbert Lousley, Christopher Stone, Yvonne De La Harpe, Norman Morey, Robert Downs, Patrick Keogh, Marjorie Burge, Peter McCann, Eileen and Jo McDermott, Edmund Pike, Gunter Plum.