

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 First Sunday of Advent Year B

We begin Advent in very unusual circumstances this year, with the jury still out as to whether or not current lockdown restrictions will be eased, to 'save' Christmas as some say. What is Christmas though, in today's world - and what will Christmas be like this year?

The Catholic church recognises Christmas as a time of preparation and acknowledgement of our final destination on this pilgrim journey, while reflecting on the birth of our Saviour, born of a Virgin, to live among us and pay the ultimate prize of death on the cross, for the redemption of our souls.

We live in anxious times, surrounded by daily news of death from COVID-19 and other illnesses - perhaps compounded by the lack of routine care in attempts to stop the spread of this virus. We are bombarded with endless guidelines on how to keep safe, a lot of which go against our natural human traits. It is all very confusing, and the media is rife with speculation and conspiracies, one no longer knows who or what to believe.

Why are we so terrified of death? It's almost as though our desire for eternal life, achieved only through death, is being tested now. Are we ready?

The Collect this week prays that we,

'resolve to run forth to meet our Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, we may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.'

The Gospel message is rather apt - Stay awake! None of us know when the master of the house is coming...none of us know when our time will be up, but somehow, we must not be found asleep when it does.

The government official guidance is 'Hands, Face, Space'-today we add 'Stay Awake'.

Yvonne Mubanga



Prayers Please

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.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

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 leukaemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

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;

Jack Hickey, Rob and Margaret Lackie, Roger and Gwen Whyte, David Ivimey Miller, Oscar Wilde, Dennis Graham, Raymond Graham. Mary Raybould, Madge Barnard Smith, Florrie Clifford.