

Loving God,
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
you created us in your own image and
made us stewards of creation.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation
Help us to be conscious that our common home
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures
and to all future generations,
and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and resources
that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk
of being left behind.
Transform our fear and feelings of isolation
into hope and fraternity
so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity
in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic.
Make us courageous to embrace the changes
that are needed in search of the common good.
Now more than ever may we feel
that we are all interconnected and interdependent.
Enable us to listen and respond
to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,
we make this prayer through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Thought for the week
The Second Sunday After The Nativity Of Our Lord
2nd January, 2021

The readings during Advent and the Christmas season are so beautiful: it is a joy to hear them read aloud at Mass. Like the carols we sing, the words are comfortingly familiar – they take us all the way back to childhood.

Yet each year we are invited to hear them as if for the first time; or at least afresh. It can be hard and requires a bit of effort. But surely these magnificent readings are worth that effort. If we read the passage from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians a thousand times it would still light up the mind and gladden the heart. It is so full of promise and encouragement – just what we need as we leave one year to go into the next. To see what hope his call holds for us, notwithstanding the sufferings and disappointments of the recent past.

St Paul was no stranger to suffering, as he quite often reminds us, and yet his faith and his hope in the Lord is irrepressible. The best is always ahead of us. We just have to let go, and trust.

And John's Gospel – this very familiar passage at the very beginning – reminds us, not only who Christ was, and from where he came, but also how much rejection he too experienced. Even his own people didn't listen to him. Our faith and our hope are not the same as a wishing for everything to be rosy and spotless. In fact, the reverse. From the very start things were almost unimaginably hard for Mary, for Joseph, and for Jesus. Their stories have more in common with people we associate with struggle and exclusion – unmarried mums, refugees, people living under occupation - than with those of us living in less challenging circumstances.

This is both the mystery and the source of our hope – Christ is the light that shines in the dark. So whether we are feeling more in tune with the dark, or the light, as we go into this New Year it does not matter. Our hope is the same.

A Parishioner



We ask you to please pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;

Please pray for Beth Selwood

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Carmel Barker who died last week

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer

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.

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 9 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for the children and teachers of the Parish

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;

Matt Kearney, Jenny (Winifred) Thompson, Maryann and Charles Smith, James Rideout Belletty, Peter Raynard, Grace Rehor, Kitty Cottrell, Roberto Roman Arrieta, Richmond Buike, Richard Cannings, Will van Bree, Henry Clay, Paul McDermott, Angela Sealey, Philomena Rodrigues , Paul Wailen.