

**Thought for the week  
2nd Sunday of Advent  
5th December, 2021**

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.

Advent is on us and we face yet another Christmas with the looming threat of continued Covid anxiety, exacerbated by the latest Omicron strain.

And so we continue to wait, in hope, for that 'cure' for when life can get back to 'normal'- whatever this may be for us - and wonder if life will ever be the same again - and for most, it may not.

Of one thing we can be sure is that we will and should prepare to celebrate Christmas - the coming of our Lord in the form of a helpless, refugee baby. To reflect on what His whole life means to us. That no matter how hard things may be - He has been there and through worse, in order to win us back to His Father's Kingdom.

As we prepare a way for the Lord to come to us anew this Christmas, may the words of the Psalmist provide added assurance - that we will be delivered from every form of bondage we may now feel. And that from Luke's gospel where the high mountains we struggle to climb will be flattened and those complex windy roads we navigate will be made straight; that we will all see the salvation of God.

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

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;**

Florrie Clifford, Mrs Mary Dowd, Peter John Fay, Zemica Priscilla Fernandes, David Bourne, Roger Carroll, Mr and Mrs Myers, Joan Woodward, Lesley Farquhar, Gwen Payne, John and Fiona Gallagher, Kitty and Henry Jackubizyn, Sheila Mary Westcar