

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
5th July 2020
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened,
and I will give you rest.’***

This is surely one of the more notable verses from the Gospels and one of the most comforting.

What is our burden? Today, many of us are pre-occupied with the restrictions the Coronavirus pandemic has placed on us. That may be to do with employment - or, worryingly, the lack of it - missing friends and family or feeling isolated or alone. This burden of anxiety and uncertainty rocks our notion that we have everything under control and life is satisfactory.

The invitation from Jesus is not, however, just for the time of Coronavirus. There are many burdens which oppress us; the pursuit of wealth as an end in itself, or self-aggrandisement or overriding ambition. Jesus’ invitation, ‘*Come to me*’, is always open, offering us the peace and protection of God’s love. During the live-streamed Mass, at the point where we would expect to receive Holy Communion, Fr Michael always encourages us to unclutter our minds and let God in - I always find the words, “*Let God love you*” very moving. Inside us there is always space for the divine and we can always ask God to enter and fill it with what only He can give.

In this week’s Gospel we are told, that loving Jesus and following Him is the way to knowing God the Father. Even though that love challenges us, for the comfort of Jesus is not the same as a comfort zone, it is a challenge without the burden of anxiety and uncertainty.

Mary



Prayers Please

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Ildiko Toth's university friend, Mrs Szabo (nee Ildiko Baksai) starting chemotherapy for secondary ovarian cancer.

For Ildiko Toth's god son, Basil and his wife, Sylvia to have a healthy second child. Sylvia is 6 weeks' pregnant.

Thank you for your prayers for Antonita's nephew Peppin who remains in hospital recovering from the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke and has been taken into hospital in Plymouth.

Please pray for Ilona who has had a fall.

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

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

Please pray for Irenka's sister Ludmila Morris who is a teacher at a school open for keyworkers' children.

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 the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including; Jean Coleman, Francis Joanes, Margaret Mather, Audrey Monument, W. Smyth, Maggie Carroll, Chris Tynan, Michael Werkalec, Bernard Brown, Helen Coyle, Jerry Ferris, Jack Coyle, Andrzej H. Jakubiszyn, Fritz Mork, Martin Dougan, Alf Wade, Christopher Wade, Charley and Mary Ann Smith, Brian Stratmore Cleary.