

## **A prayer for our earth**

***All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.***

***You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.***

***Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.***

***Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.***

***O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this  
earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.***

***Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.***

***Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.***

***We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace. Amen***

*A prayer for our earth was published in Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.*

**Thought for the week  
1st Sunday in Lent  
6th March 2022**

We have entered the great season of Lent! In past times this was considered a gloomy time – giving up, fasting, penance – but viewed from in a different way it can be far more positive.

Lent is a time for deepening our Christian faith, a time for renewal, reflection and a time to make a fresh start. The opening prayer reminds us that through our lent observance we may '*grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ*'.

In the first reading Moses prepares the Israelites for their new life in the promised land after forty years wandering in the desert. Our Lenten journey does the same thing, deepening our understanding of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus and helping us live that out in our own lives. Today's gospel takes up this theme: Jesus, having spent forty days preparation in the desert faces one more test before he begins his mission.

Lent for us can also be a new beginning if we take time to reflect on our current lives. For Jesus the temptations sought to lure him from setting up a kingdom of love. He was being tempted from being a servant-messiah to being a self-serving superstar.

Our own temptations come in many forms, but none are more pertinent in today's world than the craving for material wealth, status and power for its own sake and with that the ability to control other people's lives. Such desires can grow and affect not just our neighbours but whole nations.

So during Lent we can all reflect on and re-evaluate the quality and direction of our lives. What does it mean to be fully human, to be helping to create a fully satisfying life for all humanity. It is a time to re-affirm our conviction of the equal dignity of every single human person. As it says in the second reading it makes no difference if we are Jew or Greek we all belong to the same Lord.

So let's make this lent a second spring in our lives  
as we renew our discipleship with Christ and prepare for Easter.



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

Please pray for Colin, Stephen and Judy Fox's nephew who had to have a stem cell transfusion the treatment started on Feb 22nd

Please pray for victims of all wars remembering those in Ukraine

Please pray for Savanna Clark (age 2 with heart trouble)

Please pray for Shirley Trollop

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) that she may be able to have an operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is very poorly

Please pray for Beth Selwood

Please pray for Mary Haggar

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

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;**

Mr Timothy F Pereira, Peter Smith,  
Mariano Rozo Gama, Janet Kierulf,  
Henry Littlewood, Cyril Lowther, Francis White  
Francis Fallones, Marnie Connors, Peter Godfrey  
Roman Szulc, Emilia Barratto,  
Ranald McGowan (Mac), Lilian Peach.