

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
25/26th December 2021
The Nativity of the Lord

On Saturday we celebrate The Nativity of the Lord, truly a day to celebrate. Many centuries ago, St Leo the Great, fearful that anyone would feel sadness or grief on this most holy of days, said:

“Our Saviour, beloved people, is born today. Let us rejoice. It is unlawful to be sad today for this the birthday of life. This life brings happiness of a promised eternity to us since the fear of death has been destroyed. Let the holy exult because they are coming near to their prize. Let sinners rejoice because they are invited to grace. Let pagans be encouraged because they too are summoned to life.”

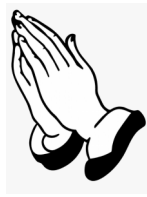
Today it is concerning to hear that only 50% of the population of England and Wales now classify themselves as Christian. This has even been apparent in cards received saying “Enjoy the Festive Season” rather than the traditional “Happy Christmas”. These days, with our nervous politically correct leaders, great efforts are made to avoid making any connection between Christmas and Christian belief for fear of upsetting non-believers.

In the 1980’s when we lived in Malaysia, predominantly a Muslim country, we all respected and celebrated each other’s feasts, Hari Raya, Chinese New Year, Deepavali and Christmas. Why cannot we do that here?

Let us be seen to celebrate, but more particularly, give to the Lord the only thing he wants from us: Let us give him time and space, listen to him and:

“Let God love us”.

Judy and Stephen



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 on Thursday

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

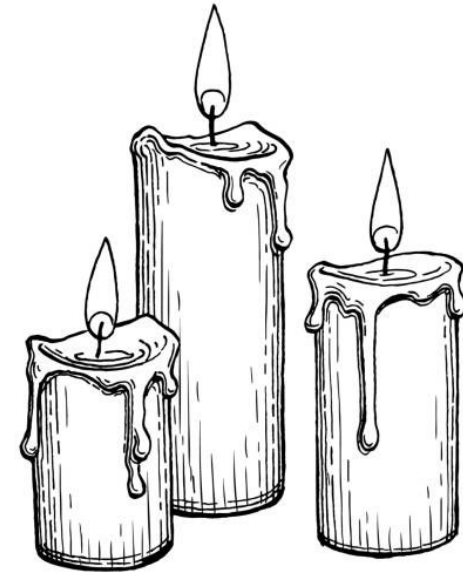
Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

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 also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Charles Harris, Kathleen Harris, Mickey Harris, Bridget O' Foughlin, Frederick Everett, John Halter, Kenneth de Silva, Danny Jenkins (Sr), John Owain Lewis, Iiona Bakaers, Julia Welemars, John Forbes, Jack Oswald, Philomena Rodriguez, Louise Coulehan, Mary Williams, Yvonne Fernandes, Terence Vincent Anthony Fernandes