

INTRODUCTION:

Two vividly contrasting images are given us in our readings today.

One, the huddle of disciples locked in by a contagious fear; the other, a new-born community united by an infectious spirit of gladness, generosity and praise.

The first resonates with our current experience of anxious lockdown, the second appeals to our dreams for a better world.

Can the interplay of the two open a pathway forward?

Can our confinement be a graced moment to reassess our uncritical acceptance of 'the way things are' and to re-imagine how they might be?

Can we make this journey through danger and death in company with Jesus and allow his Spirit to engage us in working for God's new world?

God's word is always 'yes'.

As a Faith Community, let us take a moment to reflect in silence before we begin our Mass.

(1 minute silence)

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Let us pray together our Parish Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Holy Trinity Parish is your family committed to praying and growing together as we build on the gifts of our past, the living of our present and our hopes for the future.

Lord Jesus, we are nourished by prayer, the word and sacraments especially the Eucharist. We recognize and trust in each other's spiritual gifts. We will strive to be a visible sign of God's love for the world.

Holy Spirit, baptized in your name, we accept the challenge to live as Jesus did. We will celebrate our lives and gifts in service to others, welcoming all people and sharing our talents and resources.

As a parish we will endeavour to make present the Kingdom of God, here and now.

AMEN.

Universal Prayer of the Church

Priest: Dear friends, on Easter Day Jesus greeted His fearful disciples with peace. Let us take His greeting to heart and pray in peace for the healing of the world.

Reader: **For peace in our hearts, in our homes and in every war-torn land; may this year's Anzac Day observance spur us on to work together for a just and peaceful world.** *(Pause for silent prayer)* **Let us pray to the Lord.**

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: **For the church; may Christian communities everywhere be faithful to the teachings of the apostles, the fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers.** *(Pause for silent prayer)* **Let us pray to the Lord.**

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: **For the Jewish community remembering the Holocaust this week and for the Moslem community observing Ramadan; may Christians unite with them in faith, hope and love.** *(Pause for silent prayer)* **Let us pray to the Lord.**

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: **For civic authorities at every level in nations around the world; may they guide their communities through the COVID-19 crisis with wisdom and courage.** *(Pause for silent prayer)* **Let us pray to the Lord.**

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: **For all most severely affected by the virus pandemic: the homeless, the mentally ill, the unemployed, the poor, detainees, and those without support; may they become the first to have their needs met.** *(Pause for silent prayer)* **Let us pray to the Lord.**

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: **For all who have suffered church-related sexual abuse and for their families, friends and supporters; may they speak out, be heard and be believed.** *(Pause for silent prayer)* **Let us pray to the Lord.**

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: **We pray for the recently deceased, including:**

all who have died from Coronavirus,

and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time: Maisie Weston, Joan Delaney, Janice Manley, Pat Kearney, Frank Walsh, Alex Leitch, Mick Shearer, Adriano Missio, Maureen McCabe, Bernie Cook, Amelia Murray, Anna Norgard; may they receive the heavenly inheritance prepared for them. *(Pause for silent prayer)* **Let us pray to the Lord.**

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God of peace, by raising your Son to life you have made all things new. Send us out in the power of your Spirit as apostles of mercy and compassion. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.