

COVID-19 PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL



1-Pray for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine.

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

2-Pray for people at higher risk of developing the disease.

Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19 — the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty and, for many, preventive isolation from loved ones.

3-Pray for medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers responsible for fighting the new coronavirus.

God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job.

Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.

4-Pray for leaders responsible for making decisions about the new coronavirus.

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

5-Pray for families adjusting to new ways of life.

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.

6-Pray for business owners and families facing financial stress.

Jesus, we thank You for Your faithfulness in how you have guided and equipped people in their jobs and have provided in the past. It can be scary and overwhelming not knowing how bills and obligations will be met or to not be able to provide for families. As people feel financial strain during the uncertainty, bring them comfort and peace, reminding them that You are there for them. Provide for them in their times of need.

7-Pray for grocery store workers and delivery drivers.

Lord, we are so grateful for all the people who continue to work each day so that people are able to eat. We ask that You bless and protect them as they serve. Give them grace to handle disgruntled customers during supplies shortages. Keep their bodies healthy as they unload and stock boxes of supplies. Keep their cars and trucks running smoothly as they deliver needed supplies and food people have ordered online. And please protect them all from contracting the new coronavirus.

8-Pray for the disease to stop spreading.

Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of traveling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to wash their hands properly. And while it may be heartbreaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members.

9-For those who died of the COVID-19, may God grant them eternal rest, and we pray for their families, may the Lord give them strength during this time of loss.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good
will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten
Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 20:10-13*

A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah said:
I hear so many disparaging me,
“‘Terror from every side!’ Denounce
him! Let us denounce him!’ All those
who used to be my friends watched for
my downfall, ‘Perhaps he will be
seduced into error. Then we will master
him and take our revenge!’ But the Lord
is at my side, a mighty hero; my
opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure; everlasting,
unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But
you, O Lord of Hosts, you who probe
with justice, who scrutinise the loins and
heart, let me see the vengeance you will
take on them, for I have committed my
cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the
Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the
needy from the hands of evil men.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 68:8-10,14,17,33-35

*R. Lord, in your great love, answer
me.*

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face, that I
have become a stranger to my
brothers, an alien to my own
mother’s sons. I burn with zeal for
your house and taunts against you
fall on me. R.
2. This is my prayer to you, my prayer
for your favour. In your great love,
answer me, O God, with your help
that never fails: Lord, answer, for
your love is kind; in your
compassion, turn towards me. R.
3. The poor when they see it will be
glad and God-seeking hearts will
revive; for the Lord listens to the
needy and does not spurn his
servants in their chains. Let the
heavens and the earth give him
praise, the sea and all its living
creatures. R.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-15

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to
the Romans.*

Sin entered the world through one man,
and through sin death, and thus death has
spread through the whole human race
because everyone has sinned. Sin existed
in the world long before the Law was
given. There was no law and so no one
could be accused of the sin of ‘law-
breaking’, yet death reigned over all from
Adam to Moses, even though their sin,
unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of
breaking a law. Adam prefigured the
One to come, but the gift itself
considerably outweighed the fall. If it is
certain that through one man’s fall so
many died, it is even more certain that
divine grace, coming through the one
man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an
abundant free gift.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn15:26-27

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to
me, says the Lord, and you also will be
my witnesses.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:26-33

*A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew.*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:
‘Do not be afraid. For everything that is
now covered will be uncovered, and
everything now hidden will be made
clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell
in the daylight; what you hear in
whispers, proclaim from the housetops.
‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the
body but cannot kill the soul; fear him
rather who can destroy both body and
soul in hell. Can you not buy two
sparrows for a penny? And yet not one
falls to the ground without your Father
knowing. Why, every hair on your head
has been counted. So there is no need to
be afraid; you are worth more than
hundreds of sparrows. ‘So if anyone
declares himself for me in the presence
of men, I will declare myself for him in
the presence of my Father in heaven. But
the one who disowns me in the presence
of men, I will disown in the presence of
my Father in heaven.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord,
(All bow during these two lines)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

ST PAUL'S PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr. Raymond Bugeja

Parish Secretary: Mrs Loretta Meilak

St Paul's School Principal: Mrs Maria Mercuri

School Tel: 9354-8970

St Paul's Parish strives to create an environment where children are safe, respected and cared for.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Friday: 10.30am to 3.30 pm.

MASSES:

Weekends: Saturday: 6:00 pm (vigil),
8.00pm (Neo Catechumenate)

Sunday: 9:00am, 10.30am (Italian),

Weekdays: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 10.00 am.

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays - 11am and 6.45pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: 1st & 3rd Sunday of month-9am Mass

ADORATION: First Friday of the month: 10.30 am to 12pm

BAPTISMS: Sundays at 12.00 pm.

BAPTISM PREPERATION MEETINGS: Once Monthly

MARRIAGE PREP MEETINGS: Wed 8pm or Sat 4pm

WEDDING REHEARSALS: Mon or Fri – 8pm

COMMUNION TO THE HOUSEBOUND: Thurs & Fri.

COMMUNION TO SICK at Bupa & Northern Gardens:

every 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: 2 times a year (Lent & Advent).

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10am

YOUTH & KIDS GROUP: 4th Friday of the month.

ITALIAN PRAYER GROUP: Wednesdays at 10.30 am

Legion of Mary: Monday mornings at 10.30 am.

Knights of the Southern Cross: Monday mornings.

ANNUAL ITALIAN FEASTS 2020:

St Joseph: Sun 15th March at 2pm.

Way of the Cross: Good Friday at 7pm.

St Anthony: Sun 14th June at 10.30am

St Gregory: Sun 15th Nov at 10.30 am.

Our Lady of Mt Carmel: Sun 29th Nov at 2pm.

St Lucy: Sun 6th Dec at 2pm.

IMPORTANT NEWS: REOPENING OF ST PAUL'S

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What an awkward situation we've been through, and we are not out of the woods, yet. During this time, you were in my prayers. The good news is that I would like to inform that the church is open again, observing the Covid-19 restrictions.

Anyone who would like to participate in the weekend Eucharist need to book, by calling the parish office (9354-1564) to confirm his/her booking, for the following weekend; the booking has to be made by Thursday, prior to the weekend. Only the first 20 bookings can attend. As from the third weekend of June, 50 people can attend.

Restrictions to be observed:

1. Those who attend mass need to enter from the side door of the church, as this is the official entrance during this time, and exit from the main door.
2. As one enters the church, sanitizes his hands, then write his full name, contact number, date and time of entry in church. These names will be kept on record for 28 days.
3. At the entrance and rear disinfectant wipes are provided for the attendees to wipe their seat or wherever one touched, after the celebration. Small containers are provided to throw in the used wipes.

Thank you for your sacrifice, discipline, understanding and cooperation.

You will find at the rear of the church the next set of Thanksgiving envelopes, for the next four months. Your continued support has been always appreciated, but especially, in these times that affected financially, everyone, including the parish. There is also the opportunity for cashless online payments via CDFPay for Parishes online payment portal. This site enables you to make quick and easy online thanksgiving payments. The St Paul's Catholic Church, Coburg site is live and can be found via this link: <https://secure.artezpacific.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&spid=5635719>

Alternatively, the Parish Bank Details for Direct Debit are:

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 67541 0884

Account Name: St Paul's Catholic Church

Thank you for your continued support of the parish during this difficult time.

Peace.

Fr. Raymond Bugeja

JOKE OF THE WEEK:



WE PRAY FOR

We pray for those in our local community who are **sick** and vulnerable: may they see in us the followers of a God who heals and serves.

Let us pray for those who have died, recently: Alfred Axiag, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time: Giuseppe D'Angelo, Pompeo Paterno, Marcella Pierotti, Rose Sciberras, Rose Formosa, Carmelo Bugeja; **that they may enter the peace of God.**

STEWARDSHIP:

“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.” (Matthew 10:32)

Would others know that you are Catholic by the way you act and speak? Do you share your Catholic faith with others? Do you defend your Catholic faith when the situation arises or do you remain silent? Do you pray in public before meals? Pray for the strength and courage to be a joyful witness of our Catholic faith when the opportunity presents itself. Let us become the radiant light and bold witness that we are called to be!

REFLECTION: “All Things, Big and Small”

So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Matthew 10:31

Let's be honest. God's got a whole lot on his plate. There's famine, disease, poverty and so much more going on in the world that's way more important than my anxiety attacks about my to-do list or my fretting over a work situation. At least, that's what I think sometimes. And so, I can be reluctant to bring first-world concerns to him. I figure I can handle them myself. But here's the thing: Those small things have a way of growing into bigger problems that we can't solve by ourselves. You see, God loves us that much that he wants to hear it all, even though he already knows every one of our concerns. We're not troubling him or taking him away from bigger stuff when we take even the most minor issues to him. He desires to be our confidante and counsellor.

Abba, Father, thank you for listening.

Melanie Rigney

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we have the strength and courage to be joyful witnesses of our Catholic faith in all circumstances.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Just do the footwork, then let it go.

God doesn't make orange juice, God makes oranges.

Jesse Jackson

VOCATION VIEW

Have you discovered yet that there is more to life than what only material things have to offer? We live in the Spirit. Only in the Lord can we find lasting peace. Speak the Good News.

NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

The Gospel Connection



Whispered Word

Jesus says to fear no one; but I run out of fingers counting the people and situations that cause fear and anxiety in my life. I want to believe with the certainty of Paul, but more often I find myself keeping company with Jeremiah, worried to a frazzle. Is it that I doubt God is going to get me out of the latest scrape I'm in? (Yes) Is it that God has given me reason to doubt that I will be rescued? (No) So what's the problem?

The problem is me, not God. God keeps track of the hairs on my head and the fate of every sparrow, but I'm keeping the log of everything that can and does go wrong with frail mortality. People go broke. People get sick. People die. These things are often more compelling to me than God's dominion over creation. Jesus reminds us that the body is not as important as the soul, but I have grown very fond of the body and have spent a lifetime preserving it. Still, I crawl up on the rooftop of hope every once in a while, and warble faintly about what I've heard and believe, despite all uncertainty, to be true. When I speak this truth, its certainty grows in me. When I act on this truth, I'm brought into the light.

Describe the latest occasion you had to speak or act in faith?

How did this weakness make your faith stronger?

Pray this week like Jeremiah, bringing the lovely and unlovely parts of your heart to God.

The Story ‘Every Hair of Your Head ...’

Jim Moore recalls being five and at his grandmother's house when a fierce storm broke out. His father had come to get him. The wind was blowing; rain was pelting down; lightning was flashing; thunder was rumbling behind the clouds. The storm showed no signs of letting up ... Jim's father was wearing a big blue weather coat, and said, ‘Son, come here’. He covered his son with his coat, and out into the storm they went. Even though it was raining hard, the wind was howling, and he couldn't see a thing under that coat, young Jim was not at all afraid. He knew his father could see where they were going, so he just held on tightly and trusted him. Soon the coat opened and they were home.

In what recent acts have we truly trusted in God alone?