

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.

GOSPEL*John 20:19-31*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them. In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, ‘Peace be with you’, and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, ‘Peace be with you.

‘As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.’

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

‘Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.’

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, ‘We have seen the Lord’, he answered, ‘Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.’ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them.

‘Peace be with you’ he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.’ Thomas replied, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him:

‘You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

STEWARDSHIP:

“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” (John 20:19)

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. A simple “hello” and a smile goes a long way.

REFLECTION: “A Breath of Reconciliation”

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” John 20:21-22

The disciples were hiding in a locked room when Jesus approached them, bearing the wounds of his crucifixion and offering his greeting of peace. He then sent them to be forces of reconciliation in the world. He breathed the Holy Spirit upon them, so that whose sins they forgive are forgiven. What does it mean to me, as a disciple of Jesus, that he would come to me in the midst of my anxiety and fear, breathing peace? He says to go out from the locked room—wherever I hide from problems and discord—and make peace. Peacemaking is a dance of relationship. It is conversation leading toward understanding. It is both an offering and a receiving of Jesus’ peace. Not everyone wants to be moved in this way. Sometimes I become impatient with it too.

Jesus, breathe with me in this movement of reconciliation.

Elizabeth Duffy

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we help our parish create a welcoming environment where people feel included.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “Opportunity”

Opportunity knocks but once.

Anon.

VOCATION VIEWS

It is only through people like you that others will be able to say: “We have seen the Lord.” With the resurrection to empower you and with Jesus to lure you, you too can inspire others who have not seen to believe.

ST PAUL'S PARISH

562 SYDNEY ROAD, COBURG. VIC 3058

Tel: 9354-1564

Email: stpaulcoburg@yahoo.com.au

Website: cam.org.au/coburg

Parish Priest: Fr. Raymond Buqaja



HOMILY Mercy Sunday A. The wounds of the Lord and the joy of believing.

Jesus said, Peace be with you.

They cheated, they ran away, they are still afraid: what less reliable than that group in disarray? And yet Jesus comes. A closed community where they are not feeling well, doors and windows barred, where there is no air and one feels tight. And yet Jesus comes. Not above, not on the margins, but the Gospel says, among them. And he says: Peace to you. It is not a wish or a promise, but an affirmation: peace exits, peace is here. Peace that descends within you, that comes from God. It is a peace on your fears, on your feelings of guilt, on unfulfilled dreams, on the dissatisfactions that discolour the days. But someone comes and goes from that room, enters and exits: the two of Emmaus, Thomas the brave. Jesus and Thomas, the two of them search. They seek each other. Eight days later, they were all still together. Jesus returns, with the deepest respect: instead of scolding them, he makes himself available showing them his hands. Thomas was not satisfied with the words of the other ten; not a story he needed, but a meeting with his Lord, who comes for the first time, but then returns; Jesus who instead of imposing himself, proposes himself; instead of withdrawing, he exposes himself to Thomas's hands: Put your finger here; hold out your hand and put it in my side. The resurrection did not close the nail holes, did not heal the lips of the wounds. Because death on the cross is not a simple accident to overcome: those wounds are the glory of God, the highest point of love, and then they will remain eternally open. On that flesh love has written its story with the alphabet of wounds, indelible now as love itself. The Gospel does not say that Thomas really touched, put his finger in the hole. He was satisfied with what Jesus proposes, once again, yet again, with this humility, with this trust, with this freedom, who never tires of meeting him, who does not give up his own, even if they have abandoned him. It's his style, it's Him, you can't go wrong: my Lord and my God. Because you saw me, you believed; blessed are those who have not seen and believed! A bliss for us that we don't see, that we grope and struggle, that I finally feel mine. Great educator, Jesus: he trains his own to freedom, to be free from external signs, to personal research rather than docility. Blessed are the believers! Faith is the risk of being happy. A life certainly not easier, but fuller and more vibrant. Wounded yes, but bright. Thus, ends the Gospel, thus begins our discipleship: with the risk of being happy, bringing our wounds to light.

Ernes Ronchi

(Readings: Acts 2,42-47; Psalm 117; 1 Peter 1,3-9; John 20,19- 31)

MARCH/APRIL COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection	Sacrificial Offering	\$ 862.00
Easter Offering:	Presbytery	\$ 160.00
Project Compassion:		\$ 322.30

Many thanks to all our contributors.

PARISH NOTICES

CDFpay for Parishes – Online Payment Portal

During this time, when visits to our Church are suspended, we are striving to ensure that our parishioners remain connected through new and creative pastoral programmes. While we continue to help those in our community the parish continues to incur ongoing overhead costs and we need your help.

The good news is that Catholic Development Fund (CDF) and the Archdiocese of Melbourne have partnered to build an online parish payment portal, *CDFpay for Parishes*.

This site enables you to make quick and easy online thanksgiving payments – you can set-up a recurring payment, if you haven't done so already, or you can choose a one-off offering.

The [St Paul's Catholic Church, Coburg](#) site is live and can be found via this link [CDFpay for Coburg](#)

Alternatively, I have attached a direct debit application form that you can complete and return, or those who use sacrificial giving envelopes might consider dropping their envelopes off at the Parish Office.

Thank you for your commitment to the parish. It is deeply appreciated.

Please be assured that in my daily private mass I am earnestly praying for you, your families and all parish intentions.

Fabry Zuppa

JOKE OF THE DAY

Social Distancing Baptism



**REGULAR
ELECTRONIC THANKSGIVING**

What is it?

It is an easy way to contribute regularly to the Parish Thanksgiving Programme. Direct debiting allows the Catholic Development Fund (CDF), on behalf of your Parish, to deduct from your account an agreed amount on a regular basis.

Benefits to You and Your Parish

It allows you to keep up to date with your Thanksgiving offering, even when not able to attend your Parish church.

Your Parish benefits through the regular monthly or quarterly income.

Security of Your Transaction

No cash changes hands. There is less cash to handle, thus saving administration time. CDF guarantees confidentiality on behalf of your Parish.

How to Apply

- Complete the attached Authorisation form (Part "A") and Direct Debit Request form. Sign both forms and return to the Parish office.
- The Parish will complete Part "B" and forward all completed forms to CDF (allow 14 days for CDF processing).

Variations

If you wish to alter the amount being transferred or cancel the authority, just advise your Parish.

Normal bank charges may apply, eg. dishonour fees if you have insufficient funds in your bank account.

(You will need to contact your bank or financial institution to establish if your account is suitable for direct debiting to occur. Credit card accounts and Passbook accounts are not suitable for direct debiting with CDF.)

March 2020

AUTHORISATION FORM

New Authority Amendment (please ✓ appropriate box)

Part "A" (Parishioner to complete)

Date ____/____/____

I/We authorise the Catholic Development Fund to arrange for debiting the account, as described in the **Direct Debit Request** form with the sum of \$ _____ (minimum transaction amount \$20.00).

weekly fortnightly monthly quarterly
(please ✓ preferred option.)

commencing ____/____/____ (allow 14 days)

until ____/____/____

Sign here _____

Sign here _____

(For joint accounts, two signatures are required)

Part "B" (Parish to complete)

Date ____/____/____

The above amount to be credited to:
Parish CDF Account No.

Parish CDF Account Name

TG No. _____
(Thanksgiving Envelope No.)

Parishioner Name _____

DIRECT DEBIT REQUEST

Request and Authority to debit the account named below to pay the Catholic Development Fund

Request and Authority to debit	Surname or Company name _____ Given names or ACN/ARBN _____ ("you") request and authorise the Catholic Development Fund (User ID 111560) to arrange for any amount the Catholic Development Fund may debit or charge you to be debited through the Bulk Electronic Clearing System from an account held at the financial institution identified below subject to the terms and conditions of the Direct Debit Request Service Agreement (and any further instructions provided below)
Insert name and address of financial institution at which account is held	Financial Institution Name: _____ Address: _____
Insert details of account to be debited	Name of Account: _____ BSB Number: <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> Account Number: <input type="text"/>
Acknowledgment	By signing this Direct Debit Request you acknowledge having read and understood the terms and conditions governing the debit arrangements between you and the Catholic Development Fund as set out in this Request and in your Direct Debit Request Service Agreement.
Insert your signature/s and address	Sign here: _____ Print Name _____ Sign here: _____ Print Name _____ <i>(Sign and print full names. For joint accounts, both names are required. If signing for a company include your capacity for signing, eg. Director.)</i> Address: _____ Date ____/____/____

**DIRECT DEBIT REQUEST
SERVICE AGREEMENT
(For Use When Arranging Thanksgiving Offering)**

Definitions

account means the account held at your financial institution from which we are authorised to arrange for funds to be debited on behalf of the Parish.

agreement means this Direct Debit Request Service Agreement between you and us.

business day means a day other than a Saturday or a Sunday or a public holiday listed throughout Australia.

debit day means the day that payment by you to us is due.

debit payment means a particular transaction where a debit is made.

direct debit request means the Direct Debit Request between us and you.

us or *we* means the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) you have authorised by signing a direct debit request.

you means the customer who signed the direct debit request.

your financial institution is the financial institution where you hold the account that you have authorised us to arrange to debit.

1. DEBITING YOUR ACCOUNT

1.1 By signing a direct debit request, you have authorised us to arrange for funds to be debited from your account. You should refer to the direct debit request and this agreement for the terms of the arrangement between us and you.

1.2 We will only arrange for funds to be debited from your account as authorised in the direct debit request.

1.3 If the debit day falls on a day that is not a business day, we may direct your financial institution to debit your account on the preceding business day.
If you are unsure about which day your account has or will be debited you should ask your financial institution.

2. CHANGES BY US

2.1 We may vary any details of this agreement or a direct debit request at any time by giving you at least fourteen (14) days' written notice.

3. CHANGES BY YOU

3.1 Subject to 3.2 and 3.3, you may change the arrangements under a direct debit request by contacting the Parish.

3.2 If you wish to stop or defer a debit payment, you must notify the Parish in writing at least seven (7) days before the next debit day. This notice should be given to the Parish in the first instance.

3.3 You may also cancel your authority for us to debit your account at any time by giving the Parish seven (7) days notice in writing before the next debit day. This notice should be given to the Parish in the first instance.

4. YOUR OBLIGATIONS

4.1 It is your responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient clear funds available in your account to allow a debit payment to be made in accordance with the direct debit request.

4.2 If there are insufficient clear funds in your account to meet a debit payment:

- (a) you may be charged a fee and/or interest by your financial institution;
- (b) you may also incur fees or charges imposed or incurred by us; and
- (c) you must arrange for the debit payment to be made by another method or arrange for sufficient clear funds to be in your account by an agreed time so that we can process the debit payment.

4.3 You should check your account statement to verify that the amounts debited from your account are correct.

4.4 If National Australia Bank Limited A.C.N. 004 044 937 ("National") is liable to pay goods and services tax (GST) on a supply made by the National in connection with this agreement, then you agree to pay the National on demand an amount equal to the consideration payable for the supply multiplied by the prevailing GST rate.

5. DISPUTE

5.1 If you believe that there has been an error in debiting your account, you should notify the Parish immediately and confirm that notice in writing as soon as possible so that your query can be resolved more quickly.

5.2 If we conclude as a result of our investigations that your account has been incorrectly debited we will respond to your query by arranging for your financial institution to adjust your account (including interest and charges) accordingly. We will also notify your Parish in writing of the amount by which your account has been adjusted.

5.3 If we conclude as a result of our investigations that your account has not been incorrectly debited we will respond to your query by providing your Parish with reasons and any evidence for this finding.

5.4 Any queries you may have about an error made in debiting your account should be directed to the Parish in the first instance so that we can attempt to resolve the matter between us and you. If we cannot resolve the matter you can still refer it to your financial institution which will obtain details from you of the disputed transaction and may lodge a claim on your behalf.

6. ACCOUNTS

You should check:

- (a) with your financial institution whether direct debiting is available from your account as direct debiting is not available on all accounts offered by financial institutions.
- (b) your account details which you have provided to the Parish are correct by checking them against a recent account statement; and
- (c) with your financial institution before completing the direct debit request if you have any queries about how to complete the direct debit request.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

7.1 We will keep any information (including your account details) in your direct debit request confidential. We will make reasonable efforts to keep any such information that we have about you secure and to ensure that any of our employees or agents who have access to information about you do not make any unauthorised use, modification, reproduction or disclosure of that information.

7.2 We will only disclose information that we have about you:

- (a) to the extent specifically required by law; or
- (b) for the purposes of this agreement (including disclosing information in connection with any query or claim).

8. NOTICE

- 8.1 If you wish to notify us in writing about anything relating to this agreement, you should write directly to the Parish.
- 8.2 The Parish will notify you by sending a notice in the ordinary post to the address you have given us in the direct debit request.
- 8.3 Any notice will be deemed to have been received two business days after it is posted.