

# 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***Luke 24:13-35*

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

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**STEWARDSHIP:**

***"Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32)***

How often do we take the time to discern what Jesus wants from us? Are our prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for us? If so, that's a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time in silence to listen to what Jesus is asking of you.

**REFLECTION: "At The Table"**

***...while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him... Luke 24:30-31***

I have always been puzzled (and inspired) by this story of the two disciples who met and talked with the risen Lord on the road but did not recognize him. I am puzzled for obvious reasons. They talked about serious, important things, including his crucifixion and death. He explained Scripture to them. He was right there, and yet they could not see him. How blind could they be? But I have been inspired, too, because I am just like them. Even when I pray, even when I spend time in Scripture, even when I think I am "walking the walk," I so often miss what is right before me. How blind can I be? Then the bread is broken and the wine poured. I stretch out my hand and there he is.

***Jesus, may I always find you at your table.***

**Steve Givens**

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

That we take time in silence, every day, to ask God what he wants us to do.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "Perseverance"**

It isn't hard to be good from time to time..... What's tough is being good every day.

Willie Mays

**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***

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## HOMILY on *Luke 24:13-35*

Before we are led further into the Easter season By the gospel of John, we pause to hear one of The loveliest of the post-resurrection stories. The Gospel of Luke alone tells us about the encounter of the two disciples with the risen Lord on their way to Emmaus. We are reminded “how they had recognised him in the breaking of bread” and reflect on how precious it will be to gather for eucharist once more. In fact, in the whole Emmaus story we can recognise the shape of the Mass. Just as the two disciples met up with Jesus, listened to his reading of the scriptures, broke bread with him and set off on mission, so too in the liturgy we gather, listen to the word of God, sup at the Lord’s table, and go forth. We do not just listen to a time-honoured tale, we enact it as we pray.

The beauty of the Emmaus story is that it engages us in all of our humanity. It is so wonderfully told that we are drawn deeply into the experience of the two disciples. We join them on their journey, a physical journey that becomes a journey of heart and mind and soul. We share their despondency, we feel the rekindling of their hope, we identify with their generous hospitality to the stranger, we are astonished by what is revealed to them, and we are filled with their exuberant joy. Every time we hear this story we are summoned out of darkness into light, out of grief into gladness. We are invited into a world of generous hospitality – not the world of our limited efforts to welcome others but the world of unbounded divine hospitality to us.

Whenever we hear this story our eyes are opened to recognise that what happened at Emmaus is what happens when we meet for eucharist: we gather, listen to the word of God, sup at the Lord’s table, and go forth. This is the dynamic movement hidden in the static names for the parts of the Mass: Introductory rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Concluding rites. Would that we recognised the risen Lord in our breaking of bread and were impelled forth with the burning desire to share the good news with the world!

*(Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane)*

## 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](#)

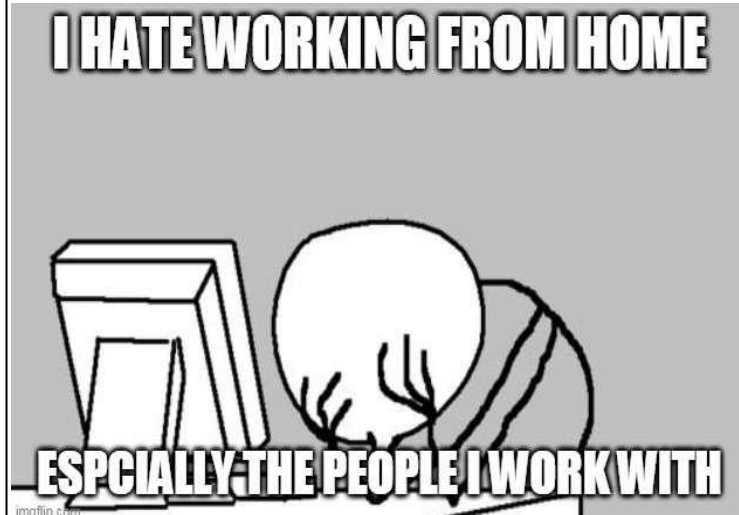
Alternatively, I have attached a direct debit application form that you can complete and return, or those who use sacrificial giving envelopes might consider dropping their envelopes off at the Parish Office.

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.

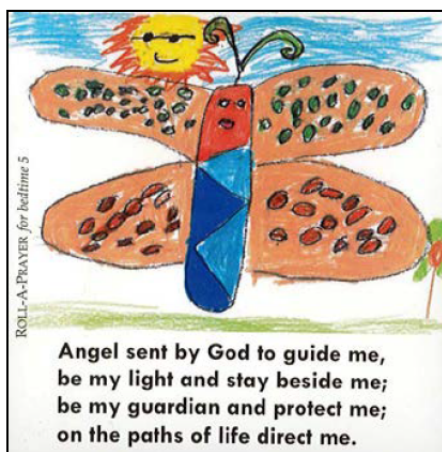
*Fabrizio Zuppa*

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**



# THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

## Bedtime Prayer



## Family Discussion

How do you think the two disciples felt as they left Jerusalem? Why do you think they did not recognise Jesus? When they realised they had been speaking with Jesus, what did they do?

Jesus shows us how to welcome the stranger – those who are different, those we do not like as much as some others. We need to recognise Jesus in all people in our daily lives. How do we welcome those who are on the outside of our group?

## Family Activity

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, sometimes OUR eyes are not looking at things properly. Put on special imaginary glasses to see the world the way God sees it. You can find a printable template to make some crazy glasses by clicking [here](#)

Picture yourselves in different scenarios with your new vision. How should you act with someone who is in a grumpy mood? When someone accidentally knocks over something you have been using? When somebody gives the wrong answer to a question? When one of your friends hurts themselves? When somebody you do not get on with gets hurt?



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