

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 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

HOMILY:

"Taken from the long discourse given by Jesus at the Last Supper, the Gospel, John 14:1-10, reflects upon this time and the understanding it will require from the disciples, that is, from the Church. In fact, there are two 'departures' of Jesus in view. The actual setting of the supper on the night before Jesus is to die makes it natural to understand the 'going away' of which he speaks as a reference to this imminent departure in death; his 'return', then, would refer to his reappearance, on the third day, as risen Lord. While at one level this is true, the discourse really addresses the more permanent 'going away' of Jesus when he finally returns to the Father following his appearances to the disciples as risen Lord. His 'return' would then be his return at the end of time, a thought otherwise rare in the Fourth Gospel.

TIME OF CHURCH:

On this second level, what Jesus is really addressing in the discourse is not the period between Good Friday and Easter Sunday but the 'time of Church' that will follow – and will in fact extend indefinitely. This will be a time when the disciples will not have the reassurance of his physical presence and will feel that loss keenly ('Do not let your hearts be troubled. ...') What Jesus wants to insist on

HOMILY CONTINUED:

here, however, is that it will be a 'graced' time, in fact a 'better' time. His departure to the Father will not mean loss but enrichment. This gives the clue to understanding rightly Jesus' statement about there being 'many rooms' in his Father's house and about his going there to prepare a place for the disciples. In a way that has long provided comfort for many people, the statement, at face value, conveys the impression of heaven as a kind of vast motel to which Jesus is going in order to prepare 'rooms' for the faithful after they die. This does not, however, do full justice to the way the Johannine gospel confronts the problem of death and, in particular, to the richness which the gospel draws out of the motif of divine 'remaining'/'dwelling'. John's Gospel presents the entire work of Jesus Christ as nothing less than a fulfilment of a divine project to bring about mutual 'at-homeness' between God and human beings. As heralded in the Prologue, the Word, whose proper dwelling is in eternity 'with God' (1:1-2), has 'become flesh'(1:14).

DWELLING PLACE:

In the human person of Jesus Christ, God has made a dwelling-place – literally, 'has pitched his tent' – among us. The disciples 'have seen his glory' in the sense that the words and actions of Jesus, notably his 'signs' (miracles), have rendered ordinary human life transparent to God's presence and to the gift of 'eternal life' which, through Jesus, God wishes to impart. To 'have eternal life' in this sense is nothing less than to have a share in God's own life, to become 'children of God' (1:12; 11:52), inhabitants of God's 'house' forever. As Jesus explains to Martha, grieving at the death of her brother Lazarus, this is the true response and remedy to human mortality: 'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even though they die, will live; and whoever lives believing in me, will never die' (John 11:25-26). What Jesus is attempting to explain to the puzzled disciples in today's Gospel is that this gift of eternal life, and the divine 'at-homeness' that goes with it, can only come about through his 'going away' for a time. His suffering and death are necessary to defeat the grip of sin and death upon the human race and open up the way to life.

AT HOME WITH GOD:

The many 'rooms' or 'dwelling places' which he is going away to prepare are in fact the separate instances of God's 'indwelling' in the heart of each and every believer. As he will say later, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them' (14:23). The disciples, as Philip so plaintively points out, cannot 'see' the Father. But, Jesus explains, he himself is 'the Way' to the revelation of the Father (the 'Truth'), in which is contained the gift of '(eternal) life' ('the Life'). In relating to him (Jesus), they are becoming 'at home' with God and God with them."

Brendan Byrne sj

ST PAUL'S PARISH

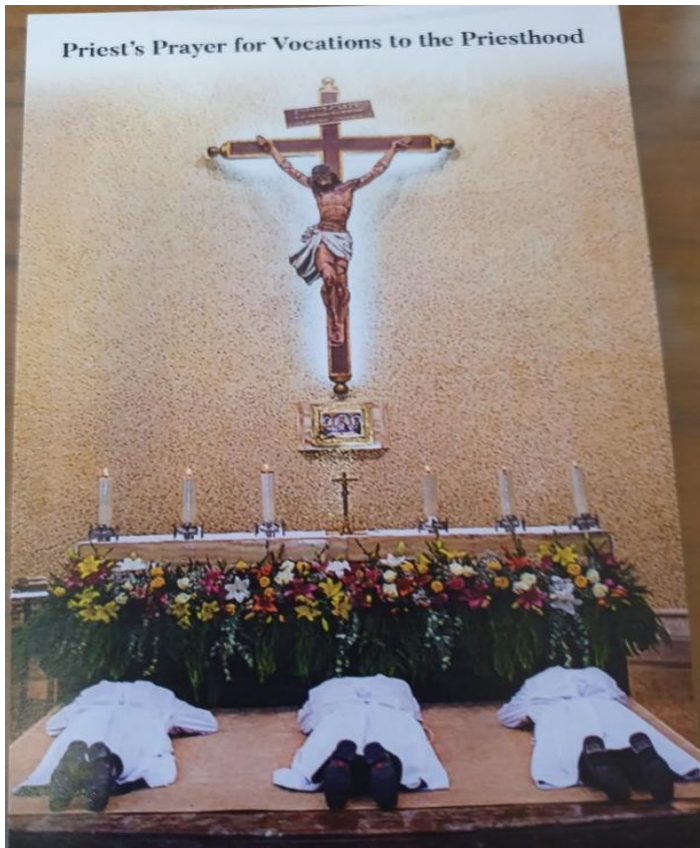
562 SYDNEY ROAD, COBURG. VIC 3058

Tel: 9354-1564

Email: stpaulcoburg@yahoo.com.au



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD



Priest's Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

Heavenly Father, I give thanks to You
for my vocation to the priesthood
of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
I ask you to raise up more vocations for the
Archdiocese of Melbourne.
Lord Jesus, grant me a heart of compassion, zeal,
humility and courage. Strengthen our seminarians
and grant them Your grace.
Holy Spirit, open generous hearts called to the
priesthood, especially those I will serve today.
May they respond and find in me an example of
priestly holiness.
Holy Mary, Mother of Priests,
intercede for your priest sons,
and keep us faithful to Jesus Christ Your Son.
Amen.

Please pray for an increase of vocations to the
priesthood in our diocese.

JOIN THE POPE IN PRAYER AND FASTING 14TH MAY

May 14: day for peoples of all religions to pray, fast and do charitable works to end coronavirus

Pope Francis announced that May 14 will be a Day of Prayer, Fasting and Charitable Works to end COVID-19. The initiative came from The Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, who proposes that everyone, regardless of religion, participate.

POPE FRANCIS: I accepted the proposal of the High Committee for the Human Fraternity, so believers of all religions will spiritually unite on May 14 in a day of prayer and fasting and works of charity, to implore God to help humanity overcome the coronavirus pandemic.

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.

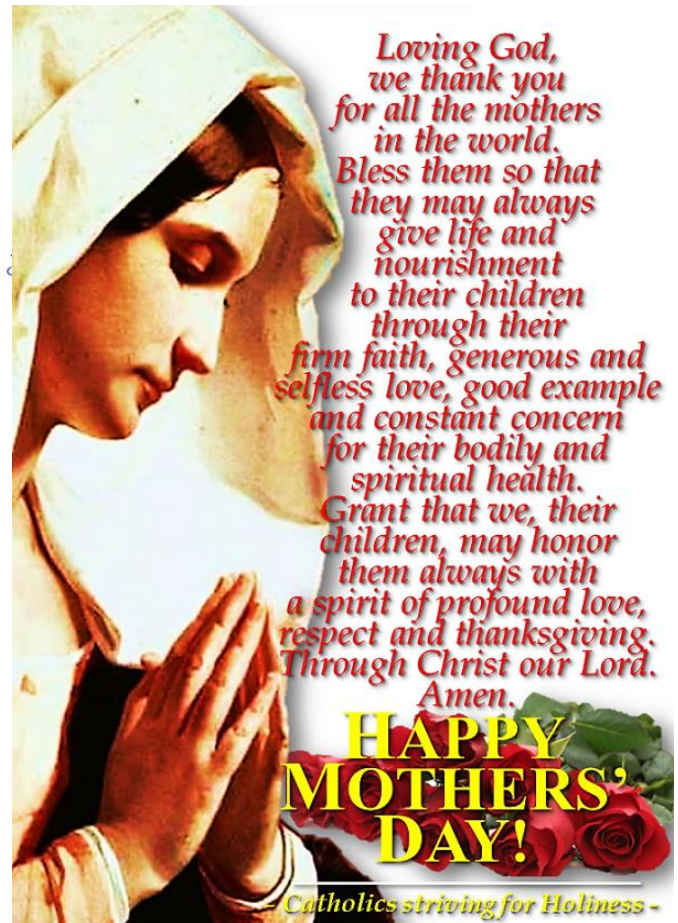
The **St Paul's Catholic Church, Coburg** site is live and can be found via this link [CDFpay for Coburg](https://secure.artezpacific.com/registrant/donate.aspx?eventid=52905&spid=5635719)
<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registrant/donate.aspx?eventid=52905&spid=5635719>

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.

Fady Zupera



*Loving God,
we thank you
for all the mothers
in the world.
Bless them so that
they may always
give life and
nourishment
to their children
through their
firm faith, generous and
selfless love, good example
and constant concern
for their bodily and
spiritual health.
Grant that we, their
children, may honor
them always with
a spirit of profound love,
respect and thanksgiving.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

**HAPPY
MOTHERS'
DAY!**

Catholics striving for Holiness -

THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Bedtime Prayer



Family Discussion

Jesus is the way. Jesus shows us how to live.
Jesus is the truth. Jesus shows us what to believe.
Jesus is the life. Jesus lives in us.

How does your family live to show other people that you are followers of Jesus?

Family Activity

When we go on a journey, we see many signs that help us on our way e.g. Stop; No Standing; One Way; the speed limit for a particular road; traffic lights ahead.



Design some signs to help your family follow Jesus, signs to remind each other that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life!

Images from Unsplash.com, Pixabay.com and Wikimedia Commons. Used under licence/with permission.
Contemporary English Version of Scripture extracts provided under licence from ICEL to Liturgy Brisbane.