

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 *Acts 1:1-11*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt
with everything Jesus had done and
taught from the beginning until the day
he gave his instructions to the apostles he
had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and
was taken up to heaven. He had shown
himself alive to them after his Passion by
many demonstrations: for forty days he
had continued to appear to them and tell
them about the kingdom of God. When
he had been at table with them, he had
told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to
wait there for what the Father had
promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you
have heard me speak about: John
baptised with water but you, not many
days from now, will be baptised with the
Holy Spirit.' Now having met together,
they asked him, 'Lord, has the time
come? Are you going to restore the
kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not
for you to know times or dates that the
Father has decided by his own authority,
but you will receive power when the
Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you

will be my witnesses not only in
Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and
Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the
earth.' As he said this he was lifted up
while they looked on, and a cloud took
him from their sight. They were still
staring into the sky when suddenly two
men in white were standing near them
and they said, 'Why are you men from
Galilee standing here looking into the
sky? Jesus who has been taken up from
you into heaven, this same Jesus will
come back in the same way as you have
seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 46:2-3,6-9

**R. God goes up with shouts of joy; the
Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to
God with shouts of joy! For the
Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. R.

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. R.
3. God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. R.

SECOND READING *Eph 1:17-23*

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

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of glory, give you a spirit of
wisdom and perception of what is
revealed, to bring you to full knowledge
of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your
mind so that you can see what hope his
call holds for you, what rich glories he
has promised the saints will inherit and
how infinitely great is the power that he
has exercised for us believers. This you
can tell from the strength of his power at
work in Christ, when he used it to raise
him from the dead and to make him sit at
his right hand, in heaven, far above every
Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or
Domination, or any other name that can
be named not only in this age but also in

the age to come. He has put all things
under his feet and made him, as the ruler
of everything, the head of the Church;
which is his body, the fullness of him
who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 28:19,20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go, make disciples of all the nations. I
am with you always; yes, to the end of
time.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 28:16-20

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

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee,
to the mountain where Jesus had
arranged to meet them. When they saw
him they fell down before him, though
some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke
to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven
and on earth has been given to me. Go,
therefore, make disciples of all the
nations; baptise them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit, and teach them to observe all the
commands I gave you. And know that I
am with you always; yes, to the end of
time.'

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.

NOTICES:



CDFPAY FOR PARISHES ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL

During this time, when visits to our Church are restricted, 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, 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/registant/donate.aspx?eventid=52905&spid=5635719)
<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventid=52905&spid=5635719>

Alternatively, 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.

Fr. Raymond Bugeja

JOKE OF THE WEEK:



Lord, help us do the things we should be to others kind and good, in all we do and all we say to grow more loving every day.



ROLL-A-PRAYER for bedtime 3

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: Paolo Monaco, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time: Alessandro D'Amato, Alfred Ciantar, that they may enter the peace of God.

STEWARDSHIP:

"I am praying for them..." (John 17:9)

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank, and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.

REFLECTION: "Keeping the Story Alive"

After Jesus had been taken up to heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. Acts 1:12

After seeing Jesus ascending into heaven, the disciples once again gathered in the upper room. They must have been thinking, "What are we supposed to do without Jesus' leadership?" There is no written record of their conversations, but we can easily imagine what they talked about. What do you remember about Jesus' life and teachings? What do we need to hand on to people who want to know more about him and his message? How can we do that best? I imagine they had to meet quite regularly to discuss how best to hand on the wonderful story of Jesus' life and teachings. "We can't let this beautiful story die!" Isn't this the purpose of our holding staff meetings, parish council meetings, diocesan synods and the like? And don't we need to remind ourselves often that our chief purpose is to make Jesus and the gospels known and loved by everyone?

Fr. Martin Pable, O.F.M. Cap.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Gracious God, We give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders. We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Jesus says to the disciples, and to us, "I am with you always". Think of some ways you know that Jesus is with you in your life. Now it is up to us to continue Jesus' work on earth through our actions. The Holy Spirit will help us to show love, and let us know what to say.

NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

CHANGES TO ACCESS FOR CHURCHES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP. A letter from the Bishops of Victoria.

Members of the Catholic community in Victoria, The Catholic Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Throughout this situation of the Coronavirus pandemic our prayers and solidarity have been with you all, and will continue to guide the challenging decisions we have been called to make.

Despite the many weeks of worry and social restrictions, we are delighted that as of 11.59pm yesterday, Tuesday 12 May 2020, churches in Victoria may now be open in certain circumstances.

This opportunity for small gatherings and for some quiet moments of prayer in the sacramental presence of Our Lord is a gentle first step in the right direction, and rightly a moment of rejoicing for God's people. We are pleased to work constructively with our communities to make appropriate adjustments. Strict restrictions still govern our actions due to the risks of COVID-19 and we are all being asked to show patience and fortitude.

Each Diocese is communicating with their parishes about how various ministries, including sacramental care, will be conducted in this first stage of the easing of social restrictions. We wish to be fully compliant with the directives that apply across Victoria, so that we ensure the protection of elderly and vulnerable people, and work together for the common good of our communities.

The conditions under which a church can be open include a collection of contact details (for the purposes of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary), strict monitoring of numbers, ongoing hygiene requirements, publicising the scheduled times for private worship, and public worship limited to ten people at a time.

Arrangements for liturgies and access to churches while ensuring these conditions are met will vary, depending on the facilities and resources that are available in each particular community. We recognise that deciding on these arrangements and putting them in place is not straightforward, and we ask for patience and understanding during this time.

This new stage of restrictions is subject to changing guidance that we receive from the State Government authorities, and we are advised this will be reviewed at the end of May.

After a difficult time for all of us, including many new pressures on families and great challenges for healthcare and emergency workers, we share in the disappointment that social restrictions are likely to continue for some time.

Nevertheless, we act with one accord in doing what is most prudent and loving for the sake of those most susceptible to the virus. We rejoice that Christ is with us and will walk with us as we begin the long journey out of the current stage of restrictions.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus.