

Prayers for Sunday 26th April 2020

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in spirit today, we praise you and thank you for the joy and hope you have brought to all the people of the earth through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

Give us, O God, the vision which can see your love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts, and to do what each of us can do to set forward the coming of the day of universal peace.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Our Father, we pray for those everywhere without homes or families, in distress and need of any kind. We pray for all:

- those in fear because of the virus, for themselves or their loved ones;
- those living in high-rise flats and run-down houses;
- those in hostels or bed-and-breakfast accommodation;
- those living in refugee camps;
- those living in cardboard cities;
- those who are hooked on drugs or alcohol.

We pray for inspiration and endurance for those who try to help them,

- for those in government who devise laws and benefits;
- for voluntary bodies struggling to give help in these days of 'social distancing';
- for doctors, researchers, social workers and good neighbours willing to risk their health to help others;
- for all those with faith who bring good news for body and spirit.

We pray for all those particularly in our hearts just now.

Heavenly Father, we pray that all whom we bring before you, may find a good neighbour in their hour of need but above all may find in you the peace, strength and comfort for which they long.

Lord in your mercy.....

Blessed are those, Lord, whose strength is in you, in whose hearts are your ways, who trudging through the plains of misery find in them an unexpected spring, a well from deep below barren ground, and the pools are filled with water. They become springs of healing for others, reservoirs of compassion for those who are bruised. Strengthened themselves, they lend courage to others, and you, God, will be there at the end of their journey. We pray that you will keep this truth in our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, at this time when the Corona virus occupies the media and our lives, we remember before you now those with other troubles.

With the memories inspired by this time of remembrance on Anzac Day, we thank you again for those who gave their lives that future generations might live in freedom and peace. We thank you that their sacrifice has helped Australia to take its rightful place in the world and we pray that the people of this nation, from so many different backgrounds and faiths will draw together to enjoy that peace and freedom those first Anzacs so valued.

Lord, so many have died in wars since then and yet around the world, fighting continues, powered by hatred, greed and fanaticism. The suffering resulting from violence seems never ending. In the name of the crucified and risen Christ, we pray for peace and reconciliation everywhere, and that he would inspire everyone, whatever their sphere of influence to spread forgiveness, understanding and hope, and the rejection of violence of any kind. Lord, in your mercy.....

We pray too for those suffering from other disasters around the world: the fires in Australia, tornados, cyclones, and other natural calamities, who now have to contend with the virus as well. May they continue to get the support they need and know that they are still in our hearts and prayers.

We pray too for those concerned with the disaster the fires brought to the flora and fauna here, that their work may continue to save and restore as far as possible the natural world, and that you would bless their efforts.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love,
from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Living God, may we encounter you today and in all the days of the week which lies ahead
in the laughter of children

in the skills of those who create

in the pauses of the elderly

in the patience of those who teach

in the loyalty of friends

in the dedication of those who serve

in the exuberance of animals

in those willing to make fools of themselves.

May we be your blessing to one another.