

# *Prayers*

## *During the Pandemic*



### *Standing Together*

*Surfcoast Parish with Anglesea Combined Churches  
& Victorian Council of Churches  
30th August 2020*

*...in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God...*

Philippians 4:6

*This service is a collection of prayers from parish members: a prayer video at sunrise by Terry; written prayers by Carmen, Kaye, Jenny, Sharon and Lydia. At 2pm the Vic Council of Churches have a youtube link of shared prayers, and the other Anglesea churches join us in prayer as well.*

*In addition we have some reflections. There are two videos made by Linda for her granddaughter Mina in Melbourne, who has been feeling sad, is sick of coronavirus and is missing her grandparents. And a youtube link to a recent reflection by Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, made available by St Peter's Eastern Hill.*

*May you be encouraged to be in conversation with the Lord.*

### *Collect*

Go before us O Lord, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and by your mercy, enjoy everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*Lectionary*

God of the frail in body and mind,  
be a companion in loneliness,  
a consolation in absence,  
a balm in mystified sorrow.

When doors, through dire necessity must stay shut,  
Let love arise in memory of gesture and embrace.

*Julie Perrin (2020 tellingwords.com.au/blog)*

*Video - Hi Mina, I Wish Coronavirus was over too...*

*from Gran Linda Walter*

### *Psalm 28:1-8*

Let us give thanks to God, the God of all peoples of the earth.  
For the colour and forms of creation and our place within it,  
we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**your mercy endures for ever.**

For our daily food, and for those whose work and skill  
bring your good gifts to us, we bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts;  
for insight and imagination, for the skills of research  
which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many;  
we bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

For the light and shades of the changing seasons,  
and their variety and dependability;  
for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;  
we bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

For new hope and strength in our communities,  
and among all you call to serve you, we bring our thanks, good Lord;  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

For all in whose lives we see goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience  
and humility, and all the fruit of the Spirit,  
we bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

For the life we have been given,  
and for all those whom you have given us to share it,  
we bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

### *Confession*

As we come to prayer, we remember the goodness of God and the  
times we have failed to respond. Let us pause to confess our sins.

**Heavenly Father,**

**you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have often  
gone our own way and rejected you will for our lives.**

**We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us  
forgive us, cleanse us and change us.**

**By your Holy Spirit enable us to live for you  
and to please you in every way**

**For the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Our God is slow to anger and full of compassion.  
He forgives all who humbly repent  
and turn to his Son Jesus Christ,  
in whom there is no condemnation. Amen.

*Prayer from the Parish*

Heavenly Father, thank you that after the night comes the dawn.  
Thank you for your love Father, that sustains us through the night, and  
brings us to the dawn with all it's colour, all it's hope, and all of your  
love.

Help us to love each other and to care for each other, in the night,  
especially in the night, that sometimes seems so long.

Help us to remind each other of your great creation, and your great  
personal love for us.

Bless us all, Father, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Terry Mervin*

*Gospel Reading - Matthew 16:21-28*

*Prayer from the Parish*

We pray for young people whose hopes have been unfulfilled:

our Year 12 students; Olympic athletes who spent years in training;  
those who had plans to travel overseas.

Lord we give thanks for the creativity of people who have turned an  
impossible situation into positivity, making people laugh, entertaining us  
and finding ways to communicate in these difficult times.

Please Lord, help us in understanding all our situations and give us  
hope for the future.

*Carmen Koster*

Holy Father, we pray that those who do not know you will come to know  
you, so that they may lead a full life here on earth in the knowledge that  
you love all humans and things you have created.

We are so grateful to already have you in our life with your many  
blessings bestowed upon us, even if we feel we do not deserve it.

We pray that all peoples will come to love one another and guide each  
other in the way of peace.

*Kaye Mackie*

Lord it seems a very long time.

Heavenly Father, I thank you for this chance to pray openly to you and also with my old companions at St Luke's, Transfiguration and Aireys Inlet.

Like everyone, I am handling this situation with great difficulty, but we must all keep going as best we can. I do wish I could go to a service and join in the taking of communion with you all.

I bring my daughter and son in law, Kieren and Paul to you, who are struggling with their health issues. Thank you for the support they have from Paul's parents Marg and Greg, and for the delight that my grandson Aaron is to us all.

I pray for all of us missing our children and grandchildren, I pray for our families who long to visit us.

Comfort us as we long for the fellowship of our Christian family.

Fill us with joy from the love we share, and give us hope as we long for the day we can see our families and have a service together again.

*Jenny Stewart*

*Video - Hi Mina, some advice from the lemon tree...sometimes when you're trying your best to grow, things go wrong...and it can make you stronger...*

*from Gran Linda Walter*

### *Prayer from the Parish*

We pray for the local business owners and their staff in our towns. We give thanks for their perseverance and adaptability.

We thank you for those who have helped us with home deliveries; for services providers and shelf packers; for chemists and testing teams; and community leaders.

Encourage our teachers who are working online and face to face, and the essential workers who provide services and care for us.

Give rest to those who are exhausted.

We ask you to provide wisdom in planning, and provision for the future so our towns will continue to thrive, and all who live in them find contentment and security.

We ask that those who have lost work or closed their business will find the resources they need to care for themselves and their families, to pay their bills and plan for their future.

Lord send your peace to those in distress, provide a clear path forward to new work, and help us each to give assistance and encouragement to those in need as we are able.

We think of the stress faced by families of all types. As we all manage being limited in our activities and social life, we ask you to guide us in our new realities, to give us patience and kindness in our relationships and generosity of heart when we are stressed.

Give single parents, divorcees, the widowed, the hospitalised and homeless extra resources and assistance for their needs, and perseverance to those who miss their loved ones.

Give partners grace and extra love 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. Be with those who are anxious, giving your comfort. Hear the cries of those who are separated from loved ones, give rest to the overstretched and energy to the under resourced.

Hear and answer all our needs for we put our trust in you.

*Sharon Valentino*

*Youtube Message*

[Click here](#)

*Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell (courtesy of St Peter's Eastern Hill)*

*Prayer from the Parish*

LORD, during these past months we've all been living with the danger and uncertainty of a fast spreading virus. We've never experienced something of such magnitude in our lifetime. As a result it has caused panic and fear. It has cost people's health, lives and our economy. Will our world be the same again? As we used to know it?

We bring to mind your teachings:

You asked us to be sensitive to life, rather than looking always into the doom and gloom.

You asked us to look to You for the Truth.

You asked us to love one another, because love unites us all.

Therefore in the spirit of gratitude let us channel our energy towards recognising the positivity of this challenge.

We begin by giving You thanks for teaching us to be alone, appreciating our own company and learning to find our inner-selves. We believe this to be a valuable lesson in learning to listen to your Spirit in us and growing closer to you.

We thank you that community spirit has never been closer despite the distancing imposed on us. Volunteers have given support to the elderly and the vulnerable, essential workers going about their ordinary work have shown extraordinary acts of care and kindness.

We have witnessed an outpouring of gratitude and appreciation for frontline workers who continue their work despite risking their own health. This situation has brought people together. Neighbours that may never have spoken to each other before are having conversations and helping with shopping.

People are paying for the petrol of strangers and leaving bears in their windows for children's enjoyment.

These are examples of the power of kindness and care in times of crisis.

As our world's economies have slowed, so have our carbon emissions. As a result we are enjoying cleaner air and less pollution in our world. We have even witnessed some rarely seen wild animals exploring the streets of urban areas.

Has the lockdown given conservation efforts a helping hand, has it begun to allow the recovery of creation?

We are walking in our local areas more, and parents are riding bikes with their children.

Let these scenarios shape our approach in treating our global environment more responsibly in the future.

Lord, you have helped us reflect on and contemplate what is truly valuable in life. We are reminded of the importance of our family and friends. Isolation has made us appreciate things we previously have taken for granted: our homes, gardens, hobbies, our health, companionship and friendships, well-stocked supermarkets....the big things and the small.

We are learning to focus on the positive in the present moment and appreciation knowing "life is short".

Loving God, we simply want to thank you for your care and protection through this testing time. We look to you for strength, please bring healing and restoration to our struggling world. As we move forward from this challenge, remind us of all the simple but positive things we have come to appreciate during these unusual times.

Thank You.....

Lydia Erving

*Youtube Prayers @ 2pm*

*It seemed fitting that on the last Sunday of Winter with all the expectation of Spring ahead, whilst being aware that we are still in restrictions, we as the church come together and pray.*

**[Click here](#)** for the Youtube link @ 2pm or see the attached flyer or Facebook **[facebook.com/viccouncilchurches](https://www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches)** @ 2pm

*Victorian Council of Churches*

*Closing Prayer*

Our Father in Heaven, we give thanks for our gathering and for the memories of celebrations past, for the joys of shared community, family and friends. We thank you for freedom to enjoy every blessing.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.**

**your Kingdom come,**

**your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those that sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours**

**Now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Blessing*

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy, to the only wise God our Saviour be glory and majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.

Jude24-25

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**