

# UNITED IN PRAYER

And the world came together as the people stayed apart. <sup>1</sup>

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

*Marist*  
ASSOCIATION OF  
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



## INTENTIONS

*We pray for the lonely and forgotten and for those without family or friends.*

*We pray for healing and justice for all those who have experienced violence and racism.*

*We pray for solidarity in our global human family, particularly those who are vulnerable and most in need.*

*For what else shall we pray...*

*Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.*

## OPENING PRAYER

Creator God,

Still and quiet our souls. May we hear the whisper of your divine call, asking us each day to accept the treasure of your life within us. Gift us with the ability to move forward into the unknown, confident that you will guide and direct us.

Amen.

## WE LISTEN

*Speak Lord, your servant is listening...*

### ***A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke (2:41-52)***

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

## WE REFLECT

### *The Heart of a Mother*

The other day, I was sitting on a train as it came to a stop at Town Hall Station in Sydney. Behind me was a mini commotion. Into the carriage piled this woman of about 55 carrying half-a-dozen plastic bags full of shopping. It was a very hot day and she was really puffing. She almost fell into the seat.

But there were two people. In the rush and rumble from door to seat, this woman, with the shopping in one hand, had her other arm entwined around a man. This man was about 30 and he was severely handicapped: his legs went in all directions and his head twitched and rolled around on his shoulders while his face was quite distorted.

Well, somehow they piled onto the seat opposite me and she proceeded to disentangle herself from the man and drop her shopping bags. Then this red-faced woman looked up at us with a big smile and said, with her arm around this man, holding him erect: "This is my son – isn't he lovely!"

I (and, I'm sure, my seat companions) saw mess, distortion, suffering – How does she cope? She saw (while living in the pain of it all – note that it wasn't separate) beauty, pride, dignity in her son – a reason for gratitude.

She is Mary at the foot of the Cross. She is a woman of the Resurrection. She has the heart of a mother. That woman lives the reality of God-at-one-with-all-that-is human: Jesus.<sup>2</sup>

**How can Mary's example be an inspiration to your own life?**

## WE RESPOND

Since Marcellin's time the Church has deepened its appreciation of Mary as First Disciple. Marists therefore have a growing relationship with Mary as our Sister in Faith, a woman with dust on her feet, a woman who was disturbed and puzzled by God, who was challenged to trust and give without knowing all the answers, whose faith life was a journey. (WFR#29)

## CLOSING PRAYER

Spirit of love, linger long at the door of our hearts. Call to us time and again until we hear your voice and respond to you. Open our minds and our hearts so that we will respond as your servant Mary did. Help us to give our "yes" to you even though our faith groans and wobbles with doubts and concerns.

***Amen.***

Saint Marcellin Champagnat  
Mary of the Cross MacKillop  
Mary Our Good Mother  
And let us always remember

***Pray for Us***  
***Pray for Us***  
***Pray for Us***  
***To Pray for One Another***

<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Wagner, 2020

<sup>2</sup> Fr Brian Stony, a Jesuit priest who for many years worked with the homeless and addicted people of inner-city Sydney