

UNITED IN PRAYER

And the world came together as the people stayed apart. ¹

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 those who have been forgotten by others.

We pray for the elderly, especially those who are confined to their homes or hospital beds.

We pray for those who have nobody to pray for them.

We pray for one another as we each face our own daily trials in life that we may see that we are not alone.

For what else shall we pray...

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

OPENING PRAYER

God of tenderness, in this time of concern in our world, may we show a willingness to offer compassion to those we meet and to those whose lives we touch.

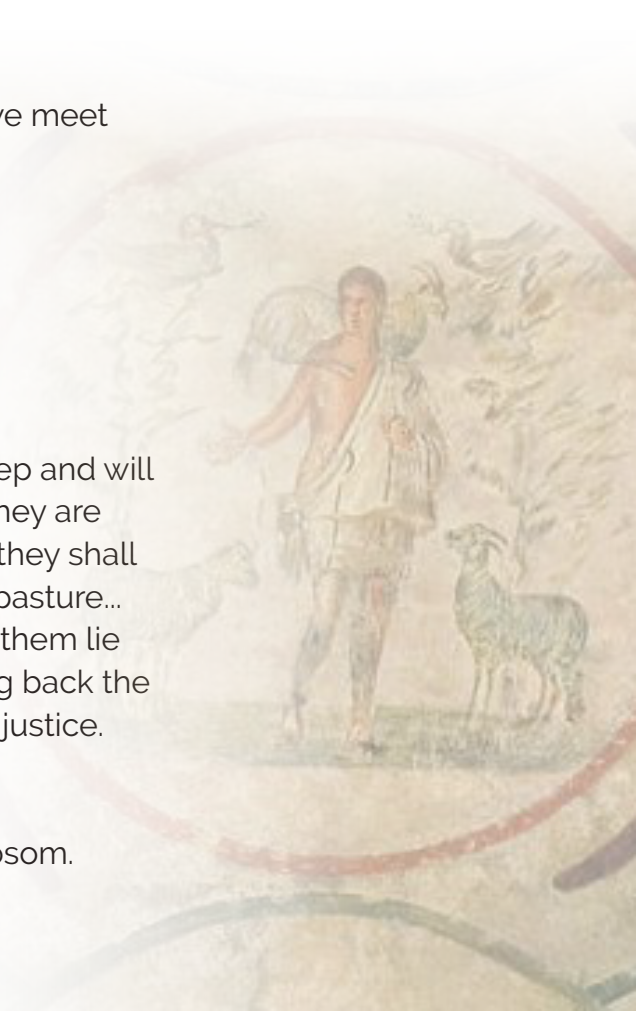
We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

WE LISTEN

Speak Lord, your servant is listening...

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep...they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture... I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured...I will feed them with justice.
(adapted from Ezekiel 34:11-16)

I will gather the lambs in my arms and carry them in my bosom.
(adapted from Isaiah 40:11)



WE REFLECT

For the people we meet each day we seek to be reflections of God. Our desire is to be a visible and permanent memory of the loving and merciful presence of God in the midst of people: living signs of the Father's tenderness. In some mysterious way, God works through us and in us. Despite our limitations, which we well know, our goodness is able to come through. By being with God we learn our way of being like him: shepherd, friend, faithful companion. (WFR 137)

WE RESPOND

As a shepherd, God assures us of His heartfelt desire to protect us. Sheep require an enormous amount of care and work. If the shepherd loses sight of the sheep, sure enough, they will wander. They get stuck. They fall into ravines. The lambs are carefully carried with tenderness. How does the little lamb come to be in the shepherd's "bosom" — the folds of his upper garment? The lamb might approach the shepherd, even nudge his leg. However, it is the shepherd who bends over, picks up the lamb, and gently places it in the security of his bosom. What a tender picture of the willingness of our Great Shepherd to shield and protect us!

Pause for a moment of reflection.

When have I felt carried?

When have I been a living sign of tenderness to others?

Whatever happens, whatever we do, we are certain that God is near, compassionate, ready to be moved for us. Tenderness is a beneficial word, it is the antidote to fear with regard to God, because "there is no fear in love" (1 Jn 4:18), because trust overcomes fear. To feel loved, therefore, means learning to trust in God, to say... "Jesus, I trust in You". God's tenderness leads us to understand that love is the meaning of life.

(Pope Francis: Conference on "The theology of tenderness" 13.09.2018)

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Mary, Mother of God and our mother,
your gentle embrace of your Son, Jesus,
shows your great affection toward him and all of us, your children.
Instill in our hearts the same love and tenderness you have for Jesus.
Intercede for us with him in all our needs and teach us compassion toward the needs of all.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Saint Marcellin Champagnat
Saint 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***