

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.



INTENTIONS

We remember today our Marists who are in isolation from their communities.

We pray for all our teachers creating on-line learning environments for their students.

We pray for our families that we stay safe and connected.

For what else shall we pray...

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

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God,
Help us to embrace the tension of our experience
and to live with our discomfort and uncertainty.
Let us be guided by God's Spirit
so that this space can be a place of new experiences and grace.
May we grow the faith we need and find peace in our confusion.

Amen

WE LISTEN

Speak Lord, your servant is listening...

In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. *Ex 14: 10-16*

WE REFLECT

The water separates Egypt from the wilderness and creates a liminal space for the Israelites. It is a boundary of sorts that must be crossed in order to enter a new way of living. The crossing is dangerous. They had to go through the unknown to reach the promised land. The circumstances, however, forced them to go forward... they were, after all, being chased by 600 chariots! The thing is, they entered the water as slaves and exited as new people.

What can you let go of in your life to help you be free/changed?
(perhaps an attitude or behaviour)

What can you commit to in your life to help you be free/changed?
(perhaps meditation, some stillness or prayer)

Pause for a moment of reflection.

WE RESPOND

During this time of Covid 19, we find ourselves in a liminal space – that is, an in-between space – a space between who we once were and who we are becoming in this 'new normal.' A space where we let go of a life that we no longer have but we are still uncertain of how life will be on the other side of this experience.

The liminal space is a space of openheartedness... we need a container that will hold us with gentleness and strength, without short-circuiting the process or forcing us into the wrong outcome.

Mary stood in this liminal space, the space between the time when Jesus occupied an important physical place in hers and everyone else's life and the new life that came through the resurrection. Perhaps Mary, herself, is that liminal space, as Platt suggests, *that container that will hold us with gentleness and strength* in our troubled times.²

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray that in this liminal space we do not lose heart but journey on together, trusting in God's providential care.

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

Perhaps liminality is given to us as a gift? Instead of fighting it, we can make peace with it. When we truly grasp that we are living in a liminal space then we can also learn how to live in the moment and the now. So, breathe deeply. You are that trapeze artist who can let go and not freak out. You can change ... You are fearfully and wonderfully made. You've got this!³

1 Jennifer Wagner, 2020
2 Heather Platt, *The Liminal Space*,
<https://www.awakin.org/read/view.php?>
3 Mary Bayton, christiantoday.com