

# 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.*



## INTENTIONS

*We pray for our business and political leaders that they enact policies that support those most exposed and vulnerable.*

*We pray that calm and consideration mark our words and actions towards all people in society.*

*We pray we see with the eyes of faith the possibilities of new life in the midst of this pandemic.*

*For what else shall we pray...*

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

## OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus, we are often confused and anxious. We ask that we are open to your presence and guidance during these challenging times. We pray with confidence for the courage and kindness needed by all your people at this time.

Amen

## WE LISTEN

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

### ***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (24:15-18, 30-32)***

As they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but *their eyes were kept from recognising him.*

And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?"

They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

Then *their eyes were opened, and they recognised him.*

## WE REFLECT

A world in the grip of a pandemic: COVID-19 confronts us on every continent, among all peoples. The statistics are frightening; the contagion is rapid; and the deaths are multiplying. Health systems are crippled by the demands, and economies are set to topple. We are horrified, scared, exhausted, isolated and powerless.

In their fear and distress, the two disciples have set out for Emmaus. They set out talking about "all that has happened" up to the darkness of the empty tomb. Do they believe that Jesus still goes ahead and will meet them on the way?

It takes courage to live this radical discipleship, to follow the way of the crucified, waiting in darkness for light, for glimpses of our loving God.

These disciples, after their encounter with Jesus, go together in faith - faith forged by the journey so far.

We, too, go in faith. We wait to see the risen one in the midst of this pandemic.

Our churches are empty, our liturgies home-based. Communities are unable to gather; two is the new crowd limit. And yet, we are courageous enough to proclaim, "The Lord is truly risen... and we have seen him".<sup>2</sup>

*Pause for a moment of reflection.*

## WE RESPOND

In this Easter season, amongst all the difficulties and restrictions, how are our eyes being opened to recognise the 'Risen One'? What do you see?

*(Perhaps in the clear waters and skies, the exploration of our neighbourhoods, the new ways of doing things with family, a more grateful spirit...)*

## CLOSING PRAYER

Creator God, even though we are unable to break bread together in our usual way, we pray for the recognition of Your presence and action among us through prayer and new awareness.  
**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**



### WHAT WE MAKE IT<sup>3</sup> L.R. KNOST

*All is not as it should be.  
But all is as it is.  
And as it is  
we can still see wishes in stars  
and new leaves sprouting on trees  
and shapes in the clouds  
and silver webs with tiny owners  
and flowers tilting toward warm sunlight  
and love in our children's eyes  
and hope in the mirror.  
Yes, it is as it is.  
But it is also what we make it.*

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

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Catherine McCahill sgs, *The Good Oil*, 2020

<sup>3</sup> L.R. Knost, *The Gentle Parent*, 2013.