

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 the safety and protection of those who are particularly vulnerable.

We pray for the peace of mind of those who are anxious or frightened.

We pray for steadfastness for those without jobs and income.

For what else shall we pray...

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

OPENING PRAYER

Sustaining God,
be with us as we come to You, in search of tenderness and compassion.
May we come to know You, more deeply, through our neighbour,
our experiences and the gift of life itself.
May we be ever trusting in Your love.
Amen.

WE LISTEN

Speak Lord, your servant is listening...

The Good Samaritan (based on Luke 10:25-37)

In the course of a discussion about what it means to love one's neighbour, Jesus tells a parable, a story we all know well, about a man in need who receives compassionate care from a person who was supposed to be his enemy, a Samaritan.

As Jesus makes clear in this story, what matters isn't what one knows or believes, but what one does or fails to do. It is a story about acting with courage, compassion, generosity and boundary-breaking solidarity. This isn't a story about a superhero; it's a story about doing what we can – no more and no less.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we are being asked to accept that there are no non-neighbours. No-one is 'other' or 'outcast'. Being a neighbour is belonging to a tribe, a race and a humanity. We all belong to each other.

WE REFLECT

Rather than "Who is my neighbour? perhaps it is better to ask ourselves:

What kind of a neighbour am I?

To whom am I a neighbour?

In the movie: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood*, Rogers says,

"I think the best thing we can do is to let people know that each one of them is precious".

How do I do that?

Pause for a moment of reflection.

WE RESPOND

For the people we meet each day we seek to be reflections of God. Our desire 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. (WFR137)

"This one thing is undeniable. We are, all of us, thirsty for kindness. Gentleness. And compassion. Let us not pretend. This is not easy - easy is shutting down. Being overcome by weariness. Giving way to numbness. Or pretending not to see. And finding someone to blame". (Terry Hershey)

CLOSING PRAYER

Our compassionate God,
may we learn from the Parable of the Samaritan
and be willing to share our resources with others,
however humble we perceive them to be.

During this time of COVID 19, we ask that we be filled with courage and generosity.

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

O WHERE ARE YOU OUR EASTER HOPE ²

NOEL DAVIS

*I am here
with your neighbour
sitting on the front steps of his burnt out home
the man who says he'd offer you a cuppa
but there's no milk at hand.*

*I am here
where you are washing each other's feet
vulnerable with the sinned against
welcoming all to share your table.*

*I am here
where you are being raised up by each other
raised by your care and concern
courageous action for the used and abused
crying out against injustice and betrayal.*

*I am here
where you have gathered together
open, prayerful, waiting, expectant
empowering each other
to live what you believe in.*

I am here.



¹ Jennifer Wagner, 2020

² extracts from *O Where are you now Our Easter Hope* by Noel Davis, *The Heart Waking and Breaking into Dance*, 2003 p. 121)