

BIDDING PRAYERS Fifth Sunday of Lent 29 March 2020

Introduction: Brothers and sisters, in this time of pandemic and social isolation, we bring all our prayers trustfully to the Father.

We pray that our faith is strengthened at this difficult time, and that all Christians may firmly believe in God's saving presence in their lives.

Pause for quiet prayer/reflection.

Lord, hear us.

We pray that God may inspire scientists working on a treatment and a vaccine for coronavirus. We ask that people in the poorer countries, who have very limited access to modern medical help, will be compassionately supported and offered access to any aid they need, and that new interventions will be freely shared as they become available.

Pause for quiet prayer/reflection.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for the doctors and nurses, and all who staff our overwhelmed hospitals and medical centres. As they are selflessly offering their energy, skills and knowledge, may they be strengthened to continue by your divine grace.

Pause for quiet prayer/reflection.

Lord, hear us.

We pray that all those in our local community, and those all over the world, who are ill or dying, especially those affected by COVID-19, may be comforted and healed.

(See list of parishioners we are praying for at the end of the Bidding Prayers).

Pause for quiet prayer/reflection.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all those who are lonely in isolation because of this pandemic. Help them to maintain contact with their families, friends and local communities through access to phones or electronic equipment. Strengthen the volunteers who are compassionately offering their help. Grant us all the gifts of patience and serenity.

Pause for quiet prayer/reflection.

Lord, hear us.

We pray that Christ, who understands our human condition so well, may comfort all who are anxious or fearful today.

Pause for quiet prayer/reflection.

Lord, hear us.

We pray that all those who have died may meet Christ, the resurrection and the life.

May they rest in peace.

Pause for quiet prayer/reflection.

Lord, hear us.

Turning to the Lord: Concluding his meditation, Pope Francis entrusted us all to the Lord, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that our faith might not

waiver in this time of crisis. “Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: ‘Do not be afraid’ (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, ‘cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us’ (cf. 1Pet 5:7).”

We pray for all those who are sick, especially

Irene Farnel, Helen Causier, Michelle Wilkinson, John Hutchinson, Margaret Custis, Fr. David Tanner, Fr. Richard Harriott, Terry Donnelly, Nicola Gauld, Michael Bowers (Sen), Susan Hope, Albert, Fr Tony Duffy, Anne Marie Troy (Dublin), Daniel, Julie, Mark Bennett , Natasha Rose, Marie McGinity, Dorothy Emmerson, Betty Alder, Reg James, Maureen Keddy, Julie Yoeart, Roger Gray, Caroline Dixon, Anna Zuccaroli, Fr Arthur Nearey (Salford), and all people, everywhere, who are suffering from the virus.