



Prayer Service for Homes

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HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

Introduction

Reader In the name † of the Father and Son and the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Leader Today we gather in our home to share the Word of God who is our strength and hope in times of great challenges and uncertainties. We are afraid as we see many of our people being infected by the Corona virus. We feel powerless in our dealing with the spreading of the disease. Let us therefore turn to our God who loves us and who cares for us beyond our imagination. Let us entrust ourselves to Him whose grace and might will help us to overcome the plague of the Corona virus.

Reader Let us now recall briefly the beginning of the Corona Virus. The outbreak of the infectious disease called COVID-19 appears to have originated in a seafood market in Wuhan which is the capital of the province of Hubei in China. What started as an epidemic mainly limited to China has now become a truly global Pandemic. The disease has been detected in at least 150 countries and territories, with Italy, Iran and Spain experiencing the most widespread outbreaks outside of China. In Australia, the first reported case of the coronavirus occurred on January 25, 2020. Currently, there are nationally 453 cases of infection. Globally, more 180,000 people have been infected.

Throughout history many plagues and diseases have caused fear and death. For example, consider the following outbreaks: The Black Plague, Ebola, SARS MERS. COVID-19 is the continuation of the outbreaks that befall humanity.

Plagues are known in the Bible. The book of Exodus reports from the Ten Plagues that God sends upon Egypt in order to convince Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, to set God's people free and allow them to worship God. Hence, we find in God our surest hope and freedom.

Prayer

All Lord, help me to hear you saying, "I am your hope" over all the other

voices. Lord, your word says, you are the hope for hopeless so I'm running to you with both hands stretched out and grabbing on to you. Fill me up with hope and give me a tangible reminder today that hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline. God, you know those things in my heart that I barely dare to hope for, today I give them to you, I trust them to you, and ask that you because I know that you can do more than I could ever guess, imagine or request in wildest dreams. God, you are my hope and I trust you. Amen.

Scriptural Reading

Reader Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

“Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

All Thanks be to God.

Reflection on Faith and Coronavirus

Trust that God is with you. Many people, especially those who are sick, may feel a sense of isolation that compounds their fear. And many of us, even if we're not infected, will know people who are sick and even die. So most will naturally ask: Why is this happening?

There is no satisfactory answer to that question, which at its core is the question of why suffering exists, something that saints and theologians have pondered over the centuries. In the end, it is the greatest of mysteries. And the question is: Can you believe in a God that you don't understand?

At the same time, we know that Jesus understands our suffering and accompanies us in the most intimate of ways. Remember that during his public ministry Jesus spent a great deal of time with those who were sick. And before modern medicine, almost any infection could kill you. Thus, lifespans were short: only 30 or 40 years. In other words, Jesus knew the world of illness.

Jesus, then, understands all the fears and worries that you have. Jesus understands you, not only because he is divine and understands all things but because he is human and experienced all things. Go to him in prayer. And trust that he hears you and is with you.

Trust in my prayers, too. We will move through this together, with God's help.

Responsorial Psalm

Response No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame.

Reader For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother womb. I will ever praise you. As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.

All No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame.

Reader Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

All No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame.

Reader Listen to my words, Lord, consider my lament. Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

All No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame.

Prayer of Intercession

Leader God of Love, we the people of Australia turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as a people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

All Lord, have mercy.

- Leader Generous and Merciful God, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear.
- All Lord, have mercy.
- Leader Healing God, bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and neighbours. We pray especially who those who are isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.
- All Lord, have mercy.
- Leader God of Strength, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical profession and in all our healthcare facilities. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.
- All Lord, have mercy.
- Leader God of Wisdom, we ask you to guide the leaders in healthcare and governance; that they may make the right decisions for the wellbeing of people.
- All Lord, have mercy.
- All O God of creation and God of life, we, your people here in Australia, place ourselves and our world in your protection and love. May your peace be with us and enfold us today, tomorrow and during the time ahead.

Lord's Prayer

- Leader Trusting in God who is in control, let us pray together to our Heavenly Father:
- All Our Father who are in heaven,

Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Concluding prayer

All Lord, you are the health of the sick.

Lord, I turn to you, imploring your divine help, intervene with your saving power and protect us from the Coronavirus epidemic. Strengthen my immune system and protect my body and that of my loved ones from Covid-19 and other infectious diseases.

We are the sheep of your flock and You are our Good Shepherd. I trust in your great love and in your benevolence, and already now I say to you with deep faith: thank you, Jesus, for all that you will do for me, my loved ones and for each of them.

Deign to heal those who are already suffering from coronavirus and give them the strength to fight this virus and the tenacity to overcome their sickness. Lord Jesus, you who took upon us our pains and for your holy wounds we were healed grant us life, life in abundance.

I ask you for the intercession of the Virgin Mary, your mother and our mother, the one who was at your feet at the cross.

In the name † of the Father and Son and the Holy Spirit.

Pope's Francis asks Mary for her Intercession

All Mary,
you always shine on our path

as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not
disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from
every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



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