

Greg's Chat

Easter 2

17 April 2020

I don't know how it is for you, but for me its strangely reassuring to know that we'll be in this current state of Social Distancing at least until the end of May. Knowing the parameters helps me to relax into this new reality. It helps me to stop wondering and worrying about the future. It helps me to relax into a position of faith,

"And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin", Matthew 6:28.

Surely the deepest wisdom is to live in the present moment, "letting Go and Letting God", whilst also praying for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, and then allowing the Spirit to empower our action and generosity.

Worship

Each week I've getting the hang of this new system of worship. I'm sorry that we have not had Holy Communion. I'm still getting me head around what this new world requires of us, theologically and liturgically. I defiantly don't want worship to be a performance by the priest. The word liturgy come from a Greek word which means "work of the people". This means that as much as possible our worship should emerge from the community and be a part of the community.

The good news is that our number of worshipers is doubling every week and we are connecting with a wider community.

You can connect with,

- Zoom: 19 April
<https://zoom.us/j/98934179610?pwd=THF5cUJCYTU1V1V0M0VkUFpJNUhzUT09>
- Facebook live: at 9am. Just go to the parish Facebook page.
- Phone: Last week a couple of people phoned a friend who was connected to Zoom and in this way they were able to hear the worship.
- Website: Go to the parish website and click on the button "church on line"

Prayer

On a **page 3** below there are lots of prayer resources. More than ever the cosmos needs it! Let's pray that at this moment will be A Time Of Turning for goodness and holiness rather than selfishness, scapegoating and greed. Remember, all it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.

Home Group and your own learning and entertainment

Home Group: Thursday at 7 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85081129138?pwd=ZkM5NVIsYVZOOGpHbjgrZDgrUVVjUT09>

I'm hoping that we'll work out a way for the other home groups to start up soon.

Learning, Spiritual Growth, Entertainment: For your personal reflection or even discussion, on **page 8** below are some links to www.theworkofthepeople.com There are some terrific resources here that have been made available for free in this time of pandemic. The parish subscribes so we can also use their other resources. Just contact me.

Meditation

Wednesday 4.30 pm : <https://zoom.us/j/461055960?pwd=QjVta0F2MmZ6bGZKTm9pdEoxRSt6dz09>

Giving

As you can imagine the parishes finances are taking a bit of a hit. The following can assist your stewardship:

- **Website :** www.apok.org.au There are links here to help you give to the parish.
- **Bank Transfer:** BSB 062 673 Account 1001 51 55
- **Parish Direct:** Contact the parish office or Terry McNellie
- **Cash:** Contact me or the parish office

Prayers

*For everything that emerges from the earth
thanks be to you, O God,
Holy Root of being
Sacred Sap that rises
Full-bodied Fragrance of earth's unfolding form.
May we know that we are of You
may we know that we are in You
may we know that we are one with You together one.
Guide us as nations to what is deepest
open us as peoples to what is first
lead us as a world to what is dearest
that we may know the holiness of wholeness
that we may learn the strength of humility
that together we may live close to the earth
and grow in grounded glory.*

-John Philip Newell, *Praying With the Earth*, 2011

Prayers about the outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake. Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs

For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Prayers with children

A prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, (*name of friend*) is ill.

They are not allowed to go to school or come over to play.

I'm sad because I miss them.

They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well.

Please be close to them.

Please be with the people who are looking after them.

Please help them to get better and to know that you love them.

Amen.

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.

Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends.

Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right medicines
to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen.

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

Tonight we pray especially for (*names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus*) and the
people of (*country or place which is affected by Coronavirus*).

Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.

Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me.

You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.

You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried.
Today I am feeling (*name how you are feeling*) because (*reasons you are feeling this way*).
Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today.

Amen.

Personal prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

I am giving you worship with all my life,
I am giving you obedience with all my power,
I am giving you praise with all my strength,
I am giving you honour with all my speech.
I am giving you love with all my heart,
I am giving you affection with all my sense,
I am giving you my being with all my mind,
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.
Praise to the Father,
Praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit,
The Three in One.

*adapted from Alexander Carmichael,
Carmina Gadelica (1900)*

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

The Jesus Prayer

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal

that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation,
that among the changes and chances of this mortal life,
we may always be defended by your gracious help,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Common Worship

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

St Benedict

Before going to sleep

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For everything that emerges from the earth
thanks be to you, O God,

The Work Of The People

Video Prayers, Talks, Meditations, resources for bible studies

A Few Highlighted Pieces to Consider

Reformulating All Possibilities - Thoughts from a few theologians, authors and practitioners on Jesus and the Cross. [STREAM HERE](#).

Oh Radiant Light - This acclamation/invocation, written by BY Chris Neufeld-Erdman, draws on themes found in the Gospel of Thomas, Meister Eckhart, Hildegard von Bingen, Teilhard de Chardin, and Thomas Berry. [STREAM HERE](#).

Mourning to Morning - Willingness to be forgiven, to be brought breath, to live...Music by Shelle Layne Coley and poem by Kelly Ann Hall. [STREAM HERE](#).

In You Alone - A visual benediction. Music by www.aaronstrumpel.com. [STREAM HERE](#).

No Trace of Death - James Alison on God, death, creation, resurrection, and how impossibility is ruptured. [STREAM HERE](#).

But Not Held - Christ is risen! A prayer by Walter Brueggemann. [STREAM HERE](#)

Embracing the Cross - Richard Rohr on the meaning of the cross. [STREAM HERE](#). Also, another one with Richard n the cross [HERE](#) called *The Human One*.

The Antidote - Nadia Bolz-Weber on grace, forgiveness and the Cross. [STREAM HERE](#)

MORE FREE FILM STEAMING

A Series & A Few Films to Stream for Free

FREE FILM SERIES

The Four Gospel Journey - How do we face change? How do we move through suffering? How do we receive joy? How do we mature in service? Spend some time with Alexander J Shaia as he uses the great map of the four Gospels, just as the Christians used, to guide us on the Christ journey - one of love, growth and transformation. Stream on TWOTP [HERE](#). We'll also be releasing the film series on our facebook page if you want to share it with folks that way.

FREE FILMS

A Contemplative Moment - Barbara A. Holmes on how contemplative prayer births prophetic proclamation and action. Hear what you are unwilling to hear. Don't be afraid. The peace will hold you. [STREAM HERE](#).

The Gift of Faith - James Alison on allowing God's liking us to reach the place we find it

impossible to like ourselves. [STREAM HERE](#).

[Love Distorted](#) - Grace Ji-Sun Kim on the systems created by whiteness, patriarchy, and the imagination of conquest that lead to death. [STREAM HERE](#).

[The Universal Christ](#) - Christ is not Jesus' last name. Richard Rohr on recapturing Christ's cosmic dimension. Become the mystery. [STREAM HERE](#).

[Smashing Idols through Pain](#) - Can you trust that what comes into your life is for you? Barbara Brown Taylor on breathing in pain. [STREAM HERE](#).

[A God-Oriented Heart](#) - Does God ever seem like an anal theology professor on steroids interested only in one thing - If you are believing in the rights things? Greg Boyd used to think that but, now he finds the Cross to be bigger than that. God's invitation is into a relationship, not a belief necessarily. What ultimately decides the fate of people is not the content of their brain, but the orientation of our heart. Do we have a God-oriented heart or a self-oriented heart? [STREAM HERE](#).

[And Your Will Be Done](#) - Who's really asleep in the boat in the Gospel of Mark? Thoughts from Alexander J. Shaia on God's presence amidst the darker times we face or are facing in our lives. [STREAM HERE](#)