

Lord Jesus Christ,  
our Divine Physician,

we ask you to guard and protect us  
and all people from the  
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,  
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,  
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,  
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,  
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,  
grant them success;

For those afraid,  
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,  
may you turn the evil of disease  
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your  
infinite mercy.

Amen.

**Thought for the week**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**18th April, 2021**

*“Now you must repent [...] so that your sins may be wiped out.”*

The season of Easter continues with its message of reconciliation and hope, and that’s underscored in today’s Readings. But first, Peter is driving home his point very forcefully. In case his Israelite audience had tried to forget, he reminded them that THEY were the ones who handed Jesus over to be crucified, THEY were the ones who demanded the release of a convicted murderer, THEY were the ones who approved the death of the ‘Prince of Life’. Peter did not pull his punches. Although he did relent and, echoing the words of his dying Master, he conceded that Christ’s persecutors did not really know what they were doing. If we were being picky, we might remember that Peter hadn’t exactly shone with loyalty when he denied three times that he even knew Christ. The crux of the matter was that – on hearing the wake-up crowing of the cockerel, Peter repented immediately: *‘He went outside and wept bitterly.’* (Lk 22:62) What Peter is doing in the first reading today is urging his listeners to repent likewise.

A wise confessor, when confronted with a penitent who was struggling to accept that his sins could be forgiven, said to the penitent, *“Remember what Our Lord said to Peter, ‘Do you love me?’”* (Jn 21:15) If the answer we give to that same question is, truthfully, *“Yes, Lord, I love you,”* then we are on the sure road to forgiveness. Truly loving the Lord is striving to keep His Commandments. He knows of our frailty, just as He knew of the frailty of Peter and the apostles: *“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”* (Mt 26:41).

It is our honest repentance, our firm purpose of amendment and, above all, our love of God which will be our saving grace when we stand before our Creator with Christ, triumphant over sin and death, as our Advocate.

*“And he who loves me will be loved by my Father...”* (Jn 14:21)



### Prayers Please

Please pray for Ivan Belevich who died recently.

Please pray for Rita Lonsdale.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid and has entered a rehabilitation centre where he is being helped to learn to walk and feed himself again.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



**Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;**

Brendan McCarthy, Raymond Taylor, Maurice Bowell, Colonel Patrick Francis Gavin Barry, Harry Gardner, George Hajdu, Ilona Bakacs, Rima Dwyer.