

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
Sunday, 20th September, 2020
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of the consequences of the lock-down was a shrinking of our world – how far we could travel, who we could see, how often we could go to work. For some this shrinking of the horizon and slowing in the pace of our lives was very welcome. We may secretly dread life picking up speed again as the new school year starts and things get back to something nearing normal. Others have suffered pain and loneliness during lock down. Getting out more is a welcome liberation.

We experience and respond to events in different ways. For some the glass always looks half full; for others it's half empty, or worse. One day I wake up feeling very positive and happy; the next sad and fretful. However hard we try, we are inconsistent and prone to fluctuations of mood.

Today's readings contrast our contrariness with the steadfast reliability of our compassionate, merciful, loving Father. Though our understanding of who God is, who we are, and how we should respond to Him may shift from day to day, He is unchanging. His mercy is without limit. His forgiveness is never withheld. His compassion is endless.

Thank goodness - our failings do not diminish Him in any way. He is always there for us and we can count on Him. It doesn't matter how early or late in life we come to know Him. The reward is the same. As St Augustine says in his Confessions: *'late have I loved thee, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved thee...you were with me but I was not with you'*.

Held back by our own weaknesses we consistently underestimate the sheer graciousness of God. We cleave to a glass half full when He promises us a glass overflowing with grace.

A parishioner



Prayers Please

Please pray for Andrew Whitehead and Hannah Rivers who are marrying today, 19th September in Derby and for Elizabeth Whitehead and Tristan Hepper who were married on the 14th August, in Northumberland and

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Please pray for the repose of the soul and consolation of the family of Ron Van Bree (brother of Eveline Dodd) whose funeral was on Friday .

Please pray for the repose of the soul and the consolation of the family of Sandra Antao (Sister of Dom) who died on the 30th August

Please pray for Sandra Gibbons who is having chemotherapy.

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

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

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 7 and has leukaemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

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; Frank Pearce, Wendy Pearce, Lesley Archard, Audrey Belletty, Harry Kerr, Freda Miller, Thomas Mullaniff, Francis George Pearce, Gwenda New, June Godfrey, Michael O'Neil, Harold Clifford.