**The Universal Prayer**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

Sunday 14th April 2024

Celebrant: My sisters and brothers,

the risen Jesus continues to call us to repentance

so that God’s love can come to perfection in us.

1. We pray that will join Pope Francis in his prayer intention for April for all women,

that their dignity may be respected,

and their lives be free of all discrimination.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray for the release of all the Israeli hostages

and of the Palestinians held in prison without being charged

of any crime.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us**

1. We pray for an end to all wars, violence, and terrorism

in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Haiti, Myanmar, Nigeria

Yemen and South Sudan.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray for each other, that like the disciples, with our minds opened and graced with forgiveness, we can be witnesses to the risen Jesus in the daily circumstances of our lives.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray for all who are suffering from natural disasters

in Australia and around the world, that released from despair and fear, they will receive all the help which they need.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray for

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

7 We pray for women who are died because of domestic violence,

in wars and through poverty, that they may feast at the eternal banquet of the Lamb.

We also remember…

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

Celebrant: Jesus, through you, the Father’s love

comes to perfection in us.

Empower us to witness to that love

by the way in which we live in the world,

for you live and reign, forever and ever.

**The Universal Prayer**

Monday 15th April 2024

Monday of the Third Week of Easter

Celebrant: As the people followed Jesus after the feeding of the multitude, so may we continue to follow him after we are fed on his word and sacrament.

1. May we follow the task of working for God, as Jesus teaches us: *you must believe in the one God has sent.*

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. May each one of us appreciate the gift of the Eucharist

in which we share the Bread of Life, Jesus himself.

Christ, hear us.

1. May those who are interrogated because of their faith

remain steadfast like St Stephen.

Christ, hear us.

1. May the dreadful situation of violence and ethnic and religious persecution in the Holy Land, Ukraine and Myanmar give way to dialogue, cooperation and a return to a just peace.

Christ, hear us.

1. May the example of love and compassion shown by St Damian de Veuster towards people with leprosy in Hawaii encourage those who live with that disease today and for all who care for them.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Heavenly God, as we walk the way of your Son,

you bless us in many ways, and so we pray that we will be faithful to him who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

**The Universal Prayer**

**Tuesday 16th April 2024**

**Tuesday Third Week of Easter**

Celebrant: My friends, the martyrdom of Stephen inspires us to live and die in the Lord, always faithful to the way of Jesus.

1. That Christians who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus,

face hardship, are treated with violence or must flee from their homes, will be inspired by St Stephen’s courage.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us**

1. That those, who like Saul, approve of the persecution of Christians,

will receive the gift of conversion as he did, and find peace and a new purpose in life: to witness to Jesus.

Christ, hear us.

1. That those who have died for their Christian faith this year in many places, may be received by Jesus, who entrusted his own spirit into the Father’s hands.

Christ, hear us.

1. That when we are questioned about our faith, we like Stephen, may be filled with the Holy Spirit,

Christ, hear us.

1. That the community of St Bernadette at St Mary’s and the students and staff of their school will be protected by her prayers on this her feast day, and find in her humble and prayerful life great encouragement for their lives.

Christ, hear us.

1. That this National Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week

evoke from us sincere prayer for all who are so inflicted and for all who care for them.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Eternal God, may the whole world come to know the saving love and Good News of Jesus Christ,

who is Lord, for ever and ever

**The Universal Prayer**

**Wednesday 17th April 2024**

**Third Week of Easter**

Celebrant: The early Church faced persecution with great courage, a gift and virtue needed today in many parts of the world.

1. May the April prayer intention of Pope Francis to honour the dignity

of all women evoke from us a deep concern for the suffering endured by women in the wars in the Holy Land and Ukraine so that peace comes to them and their families.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. May those who are persecuted for their Christian faith

be constantly inspired by the first Christians.

Christ, hear us.

1. May those who work for the destruction of the Church

in our own time be touched by the grace of the Risen Jesus

and be converted to religious tolerance and respect.

Christ, hear us.

1. May the members of our parish and families who have drifted

from their faith come to know that Christ will never abandon them.

Christ, hear us.

5 May we bring to God all who have asked for our prayers, those who

have a right to them, and those who have no one to pray for them.

Christ, hear us.

6 May the goodness and holiness of St Kateri Tekakwitha, patron of Native Americans, the environment and people living in exile, encourage the faith of Canadian and American Christians.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Father, let the whole of creation rejoice in the Easter life of your Son, so that his Spirit renews the face of the earth.

Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Thursday 18th April 2024**

**Thursday Third week of Easter**

Celebrant: My friends, the baptism of the Ethiopian was a moment of great grace for the Church, for Christ’s command to ‘go into the whole world’ was being realised.

1. That the Good News of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection

may be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

2. That the faith and joy of the Ethiopian may be a source of

encouragement to our new Easter Catholics.

Christ, hear us.

3. That the Church in Ethiopia may find in the baptism of their fellow citizen by Philip the deacon, a source of blessing as they celebrate the joy of Easter.

Christ, hear us.

4. That those communities deprived of the Eucharist because of the shortage and ageing of priests in many lands, will show the Church the importance of finding new ways of shaping her sacramental life into the future.

Christ, hear us.

5 That peace may prevail in all places where there is conflict, war and violence.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Eternal God, may the whole world come to know the saving love and Good News of Jesus Christ,

who is Lord, for ever and ever.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Friday 19th April 2024**

Friday Third Week of Easter

Celebrant: Paul’s conversion from being a persecutor of Christians to becoming Christ’s apostle to the Gentiles is a dramatic sign that God never abandons anyone.

1. May parents who worry about the apparent lack of faith in their children not lose heart, but see in St Paul’s conversion every reason to still believe in Christ’s grace.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, gracious hear us.**

1. May there be in the Church kindly people like Ananias, who did not pass judgment on St Paul, but received him as a brother and led him to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Christ, hear us.

3. May our priests and deacons commit themselves to the mission of evangelization, and encourage the development of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults in every parish of the Archdiocese.

Christ, hear us.

4 May Catholics receive the grace to deepen their understand of and

love for the Eucharist, appreciating that it is the sacrifice and presence of Jesus Christ.

Christ, hear us.

1. May God hear the prayers of people of every faith as we cry out for

peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine and everywhere there is violence.

Christ, hear us

Celebrant: Heavenly God, may the message of Christ go out to the whole world so that everyone can know how strong is your love for them.

Through Christ our Lord

**The Universal Prayer**

**Saturday 20th April 2024**

**Saturday Third Week of Easter**

Celebrant: Many of Jesus’ admirers found his teaching on himself as the Bread of Life too difficult to accept and so they left him. We pray for those who struggle today to keep faith in the Eucharist.

1. That those who love the Eucharist may help those who do not believe.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. That those who doubt Christ’s presence in the Eucharist may be touched by his grace and so hunger for this gift.

Christ, hear us.

1. That our parishioners who have lost touch with this Eucharistic community may have the opportunity to once again experience the wonderful gift Christ offers to us every day.

Christ, hear us

1. That those who remain faithful to Jesus, even when they do not fully understand their faith, hold firm to the belief that he is the Holy One of God.

Christ, hear us.

1. That those who attend to our church linen and vestments – making, repairing, cleaning, washing – may do so with the love of Tabitha,

who in her sewing, lived a life of charity, always doing good for others.

Christ, hear us.

1. That peace may come to every place where there is war and violence.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Father and King, through the power of the Sprit, help us to serve you in holiness and justice. Through Christ our Lord.