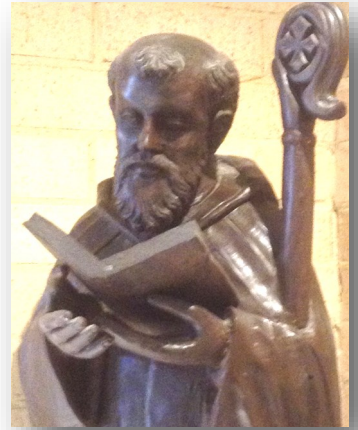


# St Benedict's Parish

## Arcadia

*To deny oneself, in order to follow Christ.  
Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4*



All public Masses and gatherings have been suspended until further notice

**Weekend Mass**

**Weekday Mass**

**Special Masses at the Parish**

**Monthly Mass**

**Children's Mass**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Liturgy of the Word**

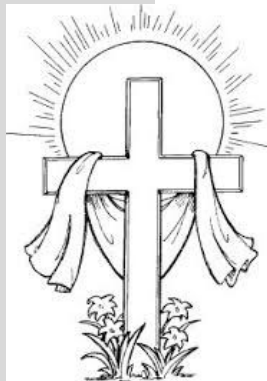
**Baptisms** are celebrated at 11.00am on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month. Please see Father Bernard.

**Reconciliation** available by appointment.

**For the sick** who require a priest, please call Father Bernard.

**Marriages** by appointment, please see Father Bernard.

**Funerals** to be arranged through Father Bernard.



## Second Sunday of Easter Year A

18 & 19 April 2020

### **First Reading**

A reading from the  
Acts of the Apostles  
2:42-47

*The faithful lived together and owned everything in common.*

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 117 R.v.1

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

### **Second Reading**

A reading from the first letter of  
St Peter 1:3-9

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to John 20:19-31

## Second Sunday of Easter

### Second Sunday of Easter 2020

We are living through an unusual period of history. There is a good chance we will never see anything like this again in our lifetimes. Or so we hope.

In this context today's liturgical readings offer us profound reflections on what it means to be a Catholic.

As Jesus greets his disciples in the Gospel soon after his resurrection his first words are: *Peace be with you!* There have been such catastrophic changes forced upon us, in these past few weeks, that our peace of mind is in jeopardy, but Christ says to us simply and directly: *Peace be with you!*

And Luke in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles reminds us of the beauty and wonder attaching to membership of the Church community: *The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the community, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.*

As a parish community we are being denied access to the *Breaking of Bread*, due to the rules of social distancing. But Luke suggests we keep in mind: *The many miracles and signs which have made a deep impression on everyone.* Can we take a moment to think of the miracles and signs which have touched our lives, and which continue to move us even in this most difficult of circumstances.

Luke continues, reminding us that the early community *went as a body to the Temple every day.* This is being denied us, even to be able to do it once a week, and we feel the loss!

St Paul, who accompanied Luke on parts of his missionary journey through the middle east, has strong words of encouragement, reminding us, first of all that God is to be blessed, for giving us the possibility of new life.

*This is a cause of great joy for us,* he goes on, and in one of the most moving passages in all the Scriptures he concludes:

*You did not see Him, yet you love Him; and still without seeing Him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of our souls.*

Thomas, of course, in the Gospel doubts. He refuses to believe unless he sees and touches the risen Lord.

In our current crisis, it may indeed, at times, be difficult to see God in the tragedies unfolding in our families, in our community and in our world.

Being confined to the monastery in these days, glimpses of the *joy so glorious it cannot be described*, has come in the form of messages from many parishioners. Are you ok? Can we do anything to help? Would you like us to do some shopping for you? Bring you a meal?

At the same time I would like to ask: Are you ok? Can we do anything to help you or your family?

It is in times like these where we are denied the *breaking of bread*, as a community, that we can, as ever, remain faithful to prayers, and to the needs of the community.

**God bless.**

**Fr Bernard OSB PP**

#### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

**HAS BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

For further information please contact:

Theresa Neely on 0447 425 077.

#### LITURGY OF THE HOURS

The liturgy of the hours is recited in the Monastery Chapel every day:

5.45am	Office of Readings
6.30am	Morning prayer
12.45pm	Midday prayer
6.00pm	Evening prayer
8.00pm	Night prayer

## In Our Parish

**We remember in our prayers** - all our dearly beloved who have died.

**We welcome into God's family** - to all who were recently baptised.

**We pray for the sick of our Parish, our country and throughout the world.**

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER  
INTENTION FOR APRIL  
Freedom from Addiction**

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

O 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

**PARISH FUNDS**

We have had a few people enquiring about financially supporting our parish. We still have to pay ongoing invoices for the parish so we would really appreciate your support if you are able to help out please contact the office on 9653 2312.

**PROJECT COMPASSION**

Project compassion boxes are available for you to take home. Payments can be paid online or over the phone or by cheque. Here is a story of how your contribution is helping:

Twenty-seven-year-old Phany was a struggling farmer and was forced to leave her daughter to take up construction work in the city. Her life has been transformed since joining Caritas supported program, learning crop growing skills and better water management, to combat drought.

**CATECHIST NEWS**

Wishing all a very happy and holy Easter! Once again echoing Bishop Anthony's message that 'We journey together!' even though we may be physically separated.

May this be a time of spiritual renewal for us all!

A reminder - all training, scheduled to be held during the school holidays, has been postponed until further notice.

Let us all keep our parish and community in our prayers this Easter.

God bless, Miriam Brown 9652 0558  
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

**FETE CANCELLED**

The Raffle will still be drawn on **Sunday 3rd May** and winners will be contacted.

- 1st prize*      *One week in 3 bedroom apartment opposite beach at Hawkes Nest*
- 2nd prize*      *Calf from Monastery herd*
- 3rd prize*      *Bike*
- 4th prize*      *PlayStation 4*

For any questions please contact Robin 0405 482 222

**National Catholic Safeguarding Standards:**

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards: Leadership, monitoring & Improvement.

**Standard 9 – The Parish regularly reviews and improves systems for keeping children safe**

**Key Elements of Standard 9:**

- ◆ Regularly reviews and improves practices
- ◆ Analyses concerns and Complaints to identify causes and potential system failures
- ◆ Reports of the findings of relevant reviews

If you have a concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person or vulnerable adult, tell someone who can help.

These people in our Parish can help:

**Fr Bernard 0416 032 497**  
**Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882**

Or contact the **Office for Safeguarding on 8379 1605**

**MEETINGS**

All meetings including Parish Council and Finance Committee meetings are suspended until further notice.

## **Gospel reading for next Week Third Sunday of Easter - Year A**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 24:13-35**

*They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.*

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened.

Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leader handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them.

Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

<b>Parish Office:</b>	<b>9653 2312</b>	<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>Mondays &amp; Fridays 10.30am to 3pm</b>
<b>Parish Priest:</b>	<b>Fr. Bernard McGrath osb</b>	<b>Monastery:</b>	<b>9653 1159</b>
<b>After hours:</b>	<b>0416 032 497</b>	<b>Email:</b>	<b>arcadia.parish@bigpond.com</b>
<b>Good Samaritan Sisters:</b>	<b>9653 1231</b>	<b>Website:</b>	<b>www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia</b>
<b>Facebook:</b>	<b>stbenedictsarcadia</b>		

**For all parish Occupational Health & Safety and Safeguarding Children matters  
please contact Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.**

## **Gospel reading for this Week Second Sunday of Easter - Year A**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them. 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

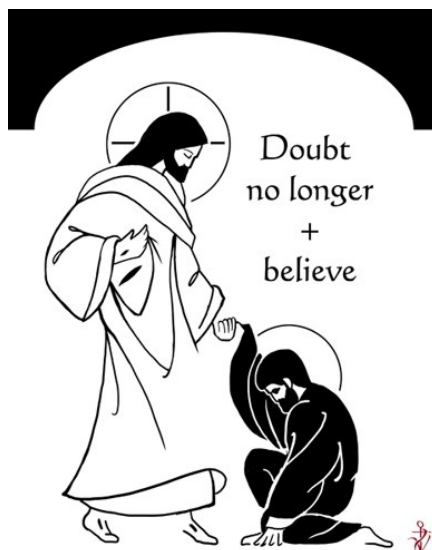
'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.





*To the Clergy and People of the Diocese of Broken Bay*

Thursday 9 April 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The acquittal of Cardinal George Pell by the High Court of Australia on Tuesday 7 April has been greeted by many mixed reactions which we have seen played out across the media over the last day or so. On the eve of the Sacred Triduum and the celebration of Easter, I wish to share with you my own understanding of these complex responses. I am with you in my prayer during these momentous developments.

For me, and for our Catholic community, the acquittal by the Court comes as a great relief. It is assuring for us as a Catholic people, especially as we enter these holy days. We are grateful that Cardinal Pell will now be able to celebrate the Easter mysteries in freedom, with his family and friends. Above all, we rejoice with him and are united with him as he celebrates Mass once again. He has always maintained his innocence and it is assuring to us that the full judicial process has given him vindication. He will require our prayers even more now as he faces the future.

We are also deeply mindful of the man who brought his complaint forward. To him, Cardinal Pell bears no ill will. We, too, must hold him in our prayers. His own acceptance of the determination by the High Court has been considered and measured. He, too, does not bear destructive anger and his resolve not to be defined by events is indicative of the possibility of healing, even in the midst of what has been a most traumatic experience for him and his family. They too need our prayer as they begin a new chapter in their journey.

The last five years have left a great scar on our lives as members of the community of the Church. The criminal activity that we have witnessed over many years does not negate the good we witness on a daily basis. Most often this is hidden. Yet, it is undeniable. Though it may not be acknowledged often in public ways, I assure you of my esteem for all that you do, and I take this opportunity to thank you all profoundly – priests and people – for the extraordinary exercise of care for children and vulnerable adults in our community and to whom the love of Christ always impels us. This love leads us to be conformed evermore deeply to Jesus, who is “the way, the truth, and the life.”

**MOST REVEREND ANTHONY RANDAZZO BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY**  
PO Box 340, Pennant Hills NSW 1715, Australia P +612 8379 1614 E [bishop@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:bishop@bbcatholic.org.au)

[www.bbcatholic.org.au](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au)



As a community of faith, Safeguarding is not just something we do, it is central to our identity. With the matter of Cardinal Pell's appeal now resolved in his favour, we must take this occasion to recommit ourselves yet once again to the protection of others, and to the growth of a culture of safety, care, and truth within our own Diocese. At all levels of our life together we must keep working to ensure that the sacred dignity of every person is always respected and promoted.

We are about to proclaim the Risen Life of Our Lord. May this life always urge us forward to give it witness by the quality of our love and care for one another.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Anthony Randazzo

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD, JCL  
Bishop of Broken Bay

# SUNDAY READINGS

## READ AT HOME

Second Sunday of Easter  
19 April 2020



### Collect

God of everlasting mercy,  
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast  
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,  
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,  
that all may grasp and rightly understand  
in what font they have been washed,  
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,  
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**



## Readings and Commentaries

With only two exceptions (the third Sunday of Easter and Ascension Sunday) the gospel reading throughout the Easter season is taken from John. The first reading always comes from the Acts of the Apostles. What varies from year to year is the source of the second reading: in Year A the first letter of Peter, in Year B the first letter of John, in Year C the book of Revelation.

There is an additional difference on this Sunday. The gospel reading (John 20:19–31) remains the same each year while the first and second readings vary.

For most of the liturgical year there is an explicit connection between the first reading from the Hebrew scriptures and the gospel; during some seasons there is a deliberate link between the second reading and one or both of the other two. Things are different during the Easter season. There is no formal link between any of the readings but in one way or another they combine to teach us about life in the Spirit of the risen Lord. This is the time of mystagogical catechesis for the newly baptised; the whole community joins them in exploring the implications of baptism.

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:42–47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

### First Reading

We start with a snapshot of the early Christian community in Jerusalem. Luke paints an idyllic picture of a harmonious, faithful, prayerful and joyful community that shared everything “gladly and generously”.

It is best to see this as an idealised portrait, Luke’s sketch of what a Christian community should look like. There is evidence elsewhere in the Acts of the Apostles that this ideal was not always realised in full. Indeed most of Paul’s letters were occasioned by reports of serious problems within the communities he had founded. However much the reality fell short, the ideal that Luke puts before us is still valid and powerfully attractive.

The reading should be a delight to proclaim. Each of the four features of the community’s life should be given individual emphasis: the teaching of the apostles, the brotherhood (“fellowship” in the NRSV), the breaking of bread, and the prayers. The rest of the reading elaborates on these. The spiritual power emanating from the community brought healing to many, and the joyous sharing of everything in common attracted others to join them.

Listeners should find themselves moved by the persuasive appeal of this text.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 117: 2–4, 13–15, 22–24

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
his love is everlasting.

or

R. Alleluia.

Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:  
'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:  
'His love has no end.' R.

I was thrust, thrust down and falling  
but the Lord was my helper.  
The Lord is my strength and my song;  
he was my saviour.  
There are shouts of joy and victory  
in the tents of the just. R.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.  
This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad. R.

## A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1:3–9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

## Responsorial Psalm

As on Easter Sunday both the response and the verses of the responsorial psalm come from Psalm 117/118. This song of thanksgiving for deliverance from distress was widely used by the early Christian community to interpret Jesus' death and resurrection.

The response is taken from the very first verse of the psalm. It is a joyful summons to give praise and thanks, entirely apt for the Easter season. Because it has two parts to it, the reader needs to pronounce the end of the first phrase – “for he is good” – with an upward inflexion so that the congregation does not begin to repeat the response prematurely. A brief pause should follow, to allow the second phrase – “his love is everlasting” – to be given its proper attention. A glance at the congregation will help cue them in for their response.

The reader will also need to give clear vocal and visual cues to the congregation for the response to the verses. These are all in six-line form rather than the more common four. From beginning to end the spirit of the psalm is one of heartfelt praise and thanks.

## Second Reading

Today's second reading is the first in a series of six passages read from the first letter of Peter. Unlike those of Paul, this letter is not addressed to a particular Christian community. It seems to be a circular letter sent around Christian communities in what is now the north of Turkey. Whether it was authored by Peter himself or by a later disciple is unclear. Its place and date of composition are also disputed. It may have originated in Rome in the second half of the first century.

The letter is in the form of an exhortation, written to support Christians facing social rejection and opposition because their beliefs and values put them at odds with the dominant culture. The author encourages them to have the courage of their convictions but not to behave in any unnecessarily provocative ways – a challenge that remains to this day. Because it spells out the implications of baptism for Christian living, it is a most appropriate text for reading in the Easter season.

This first extract is also the most difficult. It is an extended prayer of blessing for the gift of salvation. The sentences are long and complex.

**A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to John**

**20:19-31**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**Second Reading cont...**

Readers will need to study them carefully and rehearse the whole passage aloud several times. It may help to try and write down the key thoughts as short units and to put them in a clear sequence.

This is a reading that cannot be hurried. The reader's task is to guide the congregation through this dense text so that they do not get lost in its forest of phrases. This can only happen if the reader is clear about the core assertions being made and about what is additional and explanatory. In spite of the challenges it presents, this is an inspiring text.

**Gospel**

The importance of today's gospel story is shown by the fact that it led to the original conclusion of John's gospel. The story proper falls into two parts: the appearance of the risen Lord to the assembled disciples on the first Easter Day and his appearance before Thomas a week later.

John presents Jesus' resurrection, his giving the Spirit and the commissioning of the disciples in a single unified sequence. By contrast, the gospel-writer Luke introduces a time-span of forty days before Jesus' ascension, and fifty days before the outpouring of the Spirit. Each is communicating the same profound truth within a different theological framework.

The text for today can be subdivided into four parts. In part one, Jesus appears to the fear-filled disciples and greets them with peace. This twofold greeting should be given strong emphasis. Part two consists of Jesus' commissioning the disciples and breathing out his Spirit upon them. Part three relates the encounter between the risen Lord and the apostle Thomas, culminating in words that implicate us: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe". The reading comes to a climax with the final summary of the gospel's purpose: "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name".

Each part should be heard by the congregation as a distinct unit. The reading as a whole is a wonderful invitation to renew our faith in Jesus and to live in the peace and joy of his Spirit.

## Concluding Prayers

Almighty and all-merciful God,  
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,  
in whom there is no shadow of death,  
save us in this time of crisis;  
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;  
watch over all medical people  
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;  
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;  
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.  
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,  
that hope may never die  
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,  
may shine upon us and the whole world.  
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.  
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

*(Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane)*

or

Gracious God,  
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.  
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.  
We pray for those in need of healing.  
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.  
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain  
all those who are serving in response.  
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment  
amidst the many choices and decisions  
facing our national, community and medical leaders.  
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do  
to help those who are vulnerable.  
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations,  
with all that is on our hearts,  
we gather now and pray  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*(Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches. We have been invited to pray this prayer at 7pm each day.)*

