

Reflection and Prayers for Third Sunday of Easter

As if written for our time, the Emmaus story has power to fan the embers of our hope into flame.

The two disciples stand for whole populations struggling with grief and loss, bewildered by the sudden disappearance of a familiar world.

Old certainties have been swept away; what will emerge is not yet clear. What kind of society? What kind of church? In this maelstrom of change Christian believers, those who have wrestled with the word of God and broken bread together, are called to be agents of God's new heaven and new earth.

There are forgotten values to be retrieved, new discoveries to be embraced. Our eyes have been opened to see the world in a new light.

On the way to Emmaus Jesus unlocked the scriptures for the two disciples, then revealed himself in the breaking of bread. As we long to be fed again from the tables of word and sacrament, let us pray for a world hungry for good news.

We pray for all who bring us hope and love and joy in this time of global upheaval. May they lift our spirits and call us together in solidarity.

On ANZAC Day, we especially remember the courageous actions undertaken by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps during the First World War.

We pray for peace in our hearts, in our homes and in every war-torn land. May this year's Anzac Day observance spur us on to work together for a just and peaceful world.

We pray for parents struggling with home schooling and for teachers at schools that are open. May they find the resources they need to meet these new challenges.

We pray for all who are financially insecure but ineligible for government support. May ways be found to alleviate their plight.

We pray for those whose mental health is under serious threat from confinement and social isolation. May they find the resources they need to keep their peace of mind.

We pray for the residents of aged care facilities. May they be well cared for as they suffer the pain of separation from loved ones.

We pray for communities around the nation devastated by the summer bushfires. May their struggle to recover continue to receive the support it deserves.

We pray for the recently deceased, especially those who have died from the coronavirus, . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they join the risen Lord and all the saints in the glory of eternal life. Amen