

Reflection and Prayers for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

The form and feel of communal worship once churches re-open remains to be seen.

It will be a blessing if families and communities have found new, and rediscovered old, ways of praying together.

For national leaders forging policies beyond the coronavirus pandemic, that they will give full priority to the common good and to care of the earth.

Jesus Christ is our cornerstone and we are the living stones making up the house of God.

Let our prayers seek God's blessing on our world.

We pray for the whole of creation, that in preparation for the fifth anniversary of *Laudato si'* the human family will heed Pope Francis' call to care for the earth, our common home.

For all who follow the way of Christ, that they will truly live as God's priestly people, called out of darkness into God's marvellous light.

For all discerning the way ahead for the Australian Plenary Council, that like the Twelve in the early church they will be led by the Holy Spirit to respond creatively to the challenges.

For nurses around the world, especially those caring for COVID-19 patients, that this week's International Nurses Day will truly honour their skill and dedication.

For mothers, grandmothers, and all who play a motherly role in others' lives, that today will be an occasion of joy and thanksgiving, and wherever needed, reconciliation.

For all helping us find ways of being socially connected while still distanced, that their contribution will lead to a fresh and lasting appreciation of friendship and love.

For parents and teachers, that the new teaching skills they have developed will enrich the learning experience of the children in their care.

For communities in rural and regional Australia, that the recent rains will bring a complete end to drought and pave the way for recovery.

For the recently deceased, especially those who died while isolated from loved ones, . . . and all the faithful departed, that they will be made welcome in the Father's house.

Holy God and Father of Jesus, you gave us your Son to be the way that leads to you, the truth that sets us free, and life that fills us with gladness. Keep us close to him. We ask this through Christ our Lord.