



## PRAYERS IN TIMES OF EPIDEMIC DISEASE

If ever we ought to be on our knees before the living God, then now is such a time....

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O God our heavenly Father,

Your son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the Great Physician, who healed the sick, cured the blind and deaf and raised the dead, and who, throughout all history, holds dominion over disease and death:

In your mercy to this world, arrest and eradicate this coronavirus. Heal the afflicted and comfort those who have suffered from this scourge; so that those who suffer may know your healing heart and hand, that those who are anxious or burdened may know your comfort and peace that passes understanding, that the watching world may know your sovereign authority, prevailing power, mercy, and grace, and that all may come to know, love and worship you; we ask in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

*Grace and peace in Christ Jesus,  
Bishop Paul Barker (Vicar-General)*

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**... the National Council of Churches is encouraging us all to use this prayer in our personal devotions -**

*Gracious God, trusting in your providence and presence, we bring our prayer for an end to this pandemic. We pray for your strengthening of all those committed to offering costly leadership during this crisis. We pray for all who are ill. We pray for those anxious about getting ill. We pray for those full of grief. We remember those who have died. Aware of our fragility, we pray for your grace to sustain us as we do what we can to end this pandemic. Your compassionate, peaceful and creative response to many crises is our model.*

*As we worship in resurrection faith we offer our heartfelt prayer in your Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

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Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend, come and care for all of us through the danger and uncertainty of the coronavirus epidemic.

To people who are sick, bring healing. To people who are displaced, isolated, or cut off from family, friends or work, bring comfort and companionship. Work with medical staff as they care for the sick, and protect them from harm.

Give skill and fruitful research to scientists as they search for treatments, prevention and a cure. To public health authorities, give wisdom to decide the best ways to manage both this crisis and our anxieties. When communities are fearful, give a calm spirit, and kindness to neighbours and strangers.

Through this testing time, and through all the risks we face together, teach us once again how we can love one another as you have loved us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen,

*From the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne website at*  
<https://www.melboumeatiglican.org.au/>

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*... for those unable to receive Communion at this time...*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

*(suggested by Judy Munro)*

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Loving God,

With anxiety increasing all around us we ask for your deep peace and comfort. Thank you that we know that you never leave us or forsake us.

We ask you to show us how to pray for those who are ill or afraid, and for all those who care for them.

We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, that they be comforted. We pray for those who are most vulnerable, for those who are ill or of 'good age' and for those who live in communities without adequate medical support, access to nutritious food, or warm safe shelter for the night.

We ask for wisdom and strength for all those responding to the virus. We pray for health professionals and carers - that they remain strong as they continue their lifesaving work.

We pray for our leaders, that they would have your wisdom as they navigate these difficult times.

We also pray your provision for all those who will be impacted economically by this virus.

For those who will lose jobs, or won't have the resources to provide for themselves or their families.

Help us to live out your call to love our neighbours by protecting ourselves and others from infection, and by being generous to those in need.

In all that we face, may we offer your compassion, your love and your care"

**Amen**

*From Act for Peace – submitted by Margaret Tembo*

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*... for our Vicar and supporting clergy...*

Almighty God, who has the knowledge and the love to grant what we ask in faith even before we ask, have mercy and give strength to our Vicar Fr Russell,

and to our supporting clergy, as he and they seek to do Your Will in this challenging time.

Let Fr Russell feel the strength of love and support from his faithful people, and ensure that he and our Associate Priests who serve at Christ church feel the warmth of Your Love.

Only You, God, rise above all of these earthly tribulations.

We humbly ask your blessing at this time, through our saviour Just Christ.

Amen.

*(Submitted by Bill Barber)*