

And the world came together as the people stayed apart. ¹

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



INTENTIONS

We pray especially for our Victorian brothers and sisters to keep persisting in being safe and vigilant during this time of increasing pandemic.

We pray for family members who have lost loved ones and have not been able to hold their hands and farewell them with dignity.

We pray for greater patience and understanding in our world where there is a torrent of confusion and bewilderment.

For what else shall we pray...

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

OPENING PRAYER

Living God,
You are my strength;
Come among us as new life and energy.
Glory to you God of our waiting, promising, appearing, fulfilling!
Glory, praise and honour to you today, tomorrow and always.

Amen.

WE LISTEN

Speak Lord, your servant is listening...

A Reading from the Book of Ruth (1:16)

"Wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God my God too."



WE REFLECT

These three words of Ruth — *Wherever you go* — convey an almost unimaginable strength, an ability to endure, persist, overcome. They can help you and me to express some of our deepest longings. No longer Ruth's words alone, they become our words also. Likewise, they capture Marcellin's experience as well as that of our first brothers, and, indeed, of all Marists who have preceded us.

(Source: Marist Brothers' Rule of Life, p.3)

Pause for a moment of reflection.

In these trying times many feel their endurance wearing and faith being tested. What is your reaction to the words from Ruth and how are you persisting and overcoming?

WE RESPOND

We share in the spiritual motherhood of Mary as we take our part in bringing Christ-life to the world of those whose lives we share. We nurture that life in the ecclesial community, whose communion we strengthen through fervent prayer and generous service. (WFR 26)

CLOSING PRAYER

May all that is unforgiven in you
Be released.
May your fears yield
Their deepest tranquilities.
May all that is un-lived in you
Blossom into a future
Graced with love.

- John O'Donohue

Saint Marcellin Champagnat
Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop
Mary Our Good Mother
And let us always remember

***Pray for Us
Pray for Us
Pray for Us
To Pray for One Another***

INVITATION

MARY OLIVER

*Oh do you have time
to linger
for just a little while
out of your busy*

*and very important day
for the goldfinches
that have gathered
in a field of thistles*

*for a musical battle,
to see who can sing
the highest note,
or the lowest,*

*or the most expressive of mirth,
or the most tender?
Their strong, blunt beaks
drink the air*

*as they strive
melodiously
not for your sake
and not for mine*

*and not for the sake of winning
but for sheer delight and gratitude
believe us, they say,
it is a serious thing*

*just to be alive
on this fresh morning
in the broken world.
I beg of you,*

*do not walk by
without pausing
to attend to this
rather ridiculous performance.*

*It could mean something.
It could mean everything.
It could be what Rilke meant, when
he wrote:
You must change your life.*