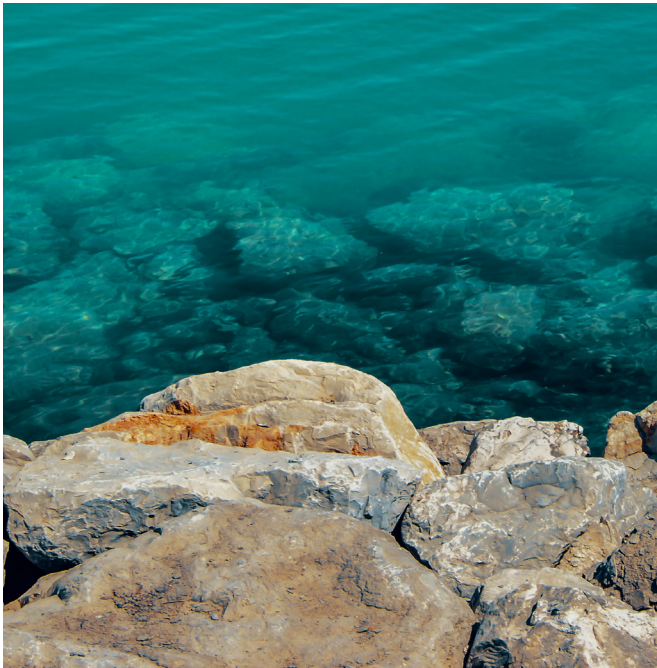


And the world came together as the people stayed apart. ¹

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



INTENTIONS

We pray for students who are experiencing school in a different way during these unsettled times.

We pray for senior students as they embark on final examinations and prepare to leave school without experiencing the traditional rites of passage.

We pray for the elderly, especially those in nursing homes who are living through periods of great fear and uncertainty.

For what else shall we pray...

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

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 46)

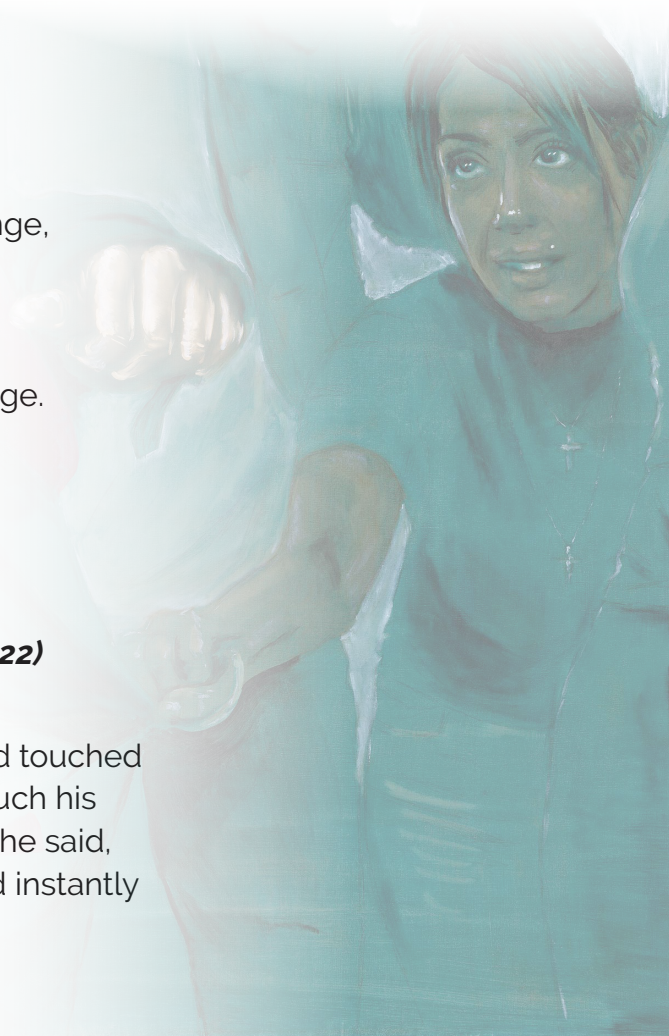
Loving God,
You are our refuge and strength,
and our help in times of trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Amen.

WE LISTEN

Speak Lord, your servant is listening...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew (9:20-22)

Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.



WE REFLECT

Everything is Going to be All Right

Derek Mahon, from Selected Poems

How should I not be glad to contemplate
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying,
but there is no need to go into that.
The poems flow from the hand unbidden
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.
The sun rises in spite of everything
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight
watching the day break and the clouds flying.
Everything is going to be all right.

Pause for a moment of reflection.

What are the signs of hope you see in your world?
For what do you give thanks to God?



In our times of solitude, we cultivate an interior life that strengthens our love of, and communion with, the world. In this way we become more sensitive to life. Though we experience the poverty of our limitations and failures, we also recognise the beauty and wonder of humanity and of all creation. (*WFR n.8g*)

WE RESPOND

At the time you're living it you can sometimes think your life is nothing much. It's ordinary and every day and should be and could be in this or that way better. It is without the perspective by which any meaning can be derived because it's too sensual and urgent and immediate, which is the way life is to be lived. We're all, all the time, striving, and though that means there's a more-or less constant supply of failure, it's not such a terrible thing if you think that we keep on trying. There's something to consider in that.²

CLOSING PRAYER

Compassionate God
Help us look to Mary as a guide and example,
the first Disciple, a woman with dust on her feet.
May she remind us
to strive to keep trying even after we experience failure,
to accept our challenges and trust in God,
to understand that our ordinary and everyday life is in fact extraordinary.
Amen.

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

¹ Jennifer Wagner, 2020

² Niall Williams, *This is Happiness* p49