

And the world came together as the people stayed apart. <sup>1</sup>

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



## INTENTIONS

*We pray for our young people in their preparation for exams.*

*We look for hope in creation as it blossoms around us during this season of spring.*

*Like Mary at the foot of the Cross, we pray that we also watch and wait patiently, in faith, through these times.*

*For what else shall we pray...*

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

## OPENING PRAYER

Mary, we look to you as our model of prayer.  
May we recognise like you, that Jesus walks with us in our suffering.  
We pray, as daughters and sons of God,  
that our grief, loss and isolation be transformed by our faith;  
finding hope, courage and peace.  
Let us be expectant people,  
just as the season of spring ushers forth new life. Amen

## WE LISTEN

*Speak Lord, your servant is listening...*

### ***A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (19:25-27)***

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.



## WE REFLECT

At the foot of the Cross, the Mother of Jesus and the beloved disciple, waited, watching faithfully. Jesus 'sees' them and is attentive to them. In His suffering, He reached out to them, offering compassion and pointing them to their mission and service.

As His disciple now, contemplate the icon. Look at Mary through the eyes of John. As John would have, follow her gaze as she contemplates her Son pondering His life and now His death on the Cross.

***I stay with Mary, Our Good Mother, and hear Jesus say to me, as He did to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'***



Detail from the Icon of the Theotokos, Holy Mother of the Lord, St Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, South Bend Indiana.

## WE RESPOND

We are called to love of neighbour, to acts of service that build up and sustain the community of faith, just as Mary did.

After the gloom of winter and despite COVID restrictions, how might Mary, in her sorrow, inspire us to act in solidarity and justice to those suffering?

***Pause for a moment of reflection.***

## CLOSING PRAYER

Mary, Woman of Sorrows, Queen of Creation,  
Mother who cared for Jesus,  
you care for this wounded world with maternal affection.  
You treasured the life of Jesus in your heart  
and stood at the foot of His Cross with the beloved disciple.  
Now, you understand the meaning of all things.  
Enable us to look at this world with eyes of wisdom  
and serve it through compassionate care for all creation. 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***

*At the foot of the Cross, we find  
a God who shares the physical  
and psychological suffering...  
experienced by humanity and  
transforms these experiences.*

*(Water From the Rock #22)*