

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 every one of us whose lives have been touched and changed forever by COVID-19.

We pray for our leaders in need of enlightenment in their decision making.

We pray for the service of all our health ministers of care.

We pray for each other that we may experience the light of Christ.

For what else shall we pray...

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

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we pray for your glorious light to shine brightly in our world during COVID-19.

Help all people during the darkness to see the love and peace that radiates from you.

This is a love that reveals justice, dignity, freedom and compassion for all, especially the poor and marginalised.

Let us, as Marists, be beacons of light for our world, caring for the generous new life you bring.

Amen.

WE LISTEN

Speak Lord, your servant is listening...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

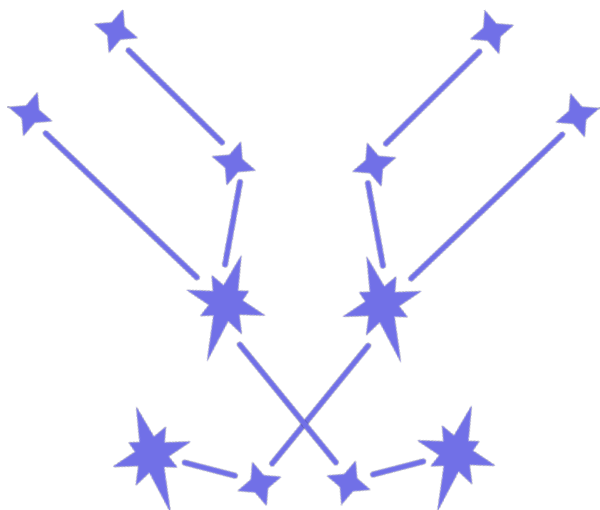
WE REFLECT

Jesus' basic message to His earliest followers is found in verse 14: *"You are the light of the world."* Certainly no one had ever told them such a thing before — even John the Baptist had seen them first and foremost as sinners who needed to repent. The great gift of Jesus Christ's awareness is that He saw people as they truly are — whole and perfect expressions of divine light. And Jesus was able to translate that insight into practical, pragmatic terms everyone could understand.

We need to shine our light in such a way that people SEE God and Jesus Christ in us. We must allow ourselves to be visible to the world around us. That's our ultimate goal.

Pause for a moment to reflect on this question.

*How can you visibly live out your goodness, your light, for the people of your community?
Who has God brought into your life especially to see your light?*



WE RESPOND

Our Marist spirituality calls us to be witnesses of light, inspiring others to seek God...

Today's world deeply needs men and women who are mystics – people who are able to touch the mystery of all life, in an attitude of openness and surrender. Having experienced the love of God, they are witnesses of light among their fellow pilgrims inspiring them to seek God.

- *Water from the Rock #71*

CLOSING PRAYER

God of light,
may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,
warming our hearts and brightening our way.
May Christ our Saviour
bring light into the darkness of this world
and enflame our hearts with your grace.
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*