

# UNITED IN PRAYER

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 the deceased members of the human family across the world.*

*We pray for leaders who are shepherds to and for their people.*

*We pray for God's grace and mercy to be living realities in our lives.*

*We pray for those who are suffering economic, social and political hardships.*

*We pray for our Marist communities, especially in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu*

*For what else shall we pray...*

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

## OPENING PRAYER

God of mercy, life and love, be with us always. You have promised that where two or three are gathered in your name there you will be. Stay with us in our times of trial. Fill our dry bones and emptiness with your Spirit. Help us to be Easter people and make ALLELUIA our song.

Amen

## WE LISTEN

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

### ***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (10:7-11)***

Jesus said: 'I AM the gate for the sheep. All who enter by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it to the full. I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'



## WE REFLECT

The Gospel is part of the inexhaustible mystery of the person of Jesus. Here Jesus is both lamb and shepherd.

*What image of Jesus do I most reflect on?*

*Am I a good shepherd to those I serve?*

*Am I able to ask for forgiveness for the times I have not been a good shepherd?*

*Am I able to live life and have it in all its fulness, especially when times are tough?*

*What is God's word for me to take from today's reflection?*

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

## WE RESPOND

**Response:** *Shepherd me O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.*

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk in the quiet waters of peace. **R.**

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my spirit shall sing the music of your name. **R.**

Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. **R.**

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. **R.**

Surely your kindness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God for evermore. **R.**

*[Listen to the Psalm here.](#)*

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## CLOSING PRAYER

God of grace and mercy,

You call us out of darkness and death to new life in you. You satisfy our hungry hearts with the the gift of finest wheat so that we can say AMEN in gratitude. Help us to be good shepherds to those we serve and may we be truly able to live life to the full. Through Christ our good shepherd and Lord.

***Amen.***

Saint Marcellin Champagnat  
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***