

# 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 those called to religious vocations, as well as those called to minister in the world as lay people.*

*We pray for the young people, especially those most in need.*

*We pray for mothers, women who cannot conceive and those who have lost children.*

*For what else shall we pray...*

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

## OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,  
we rejoice in Your love for us,  
and in the life we have been given  
through the gift of Your Son, Jesus.

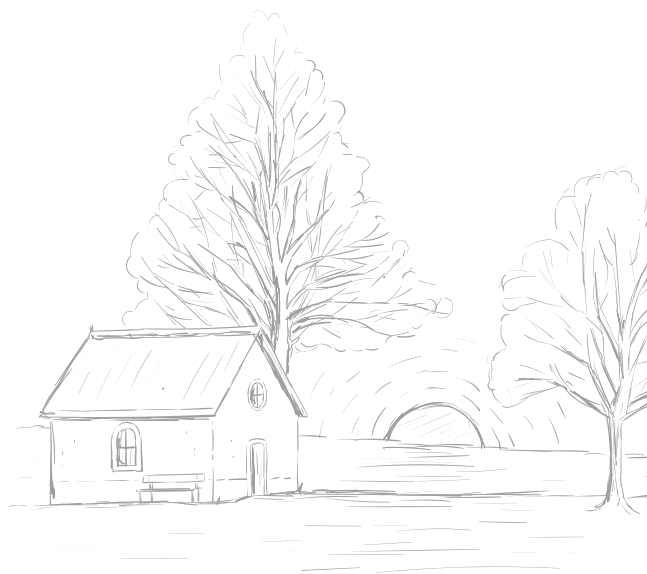
Open our eyes to recognise Your presence among us;  
open our hearts to the love that You have for us;  
open our minds to the truth You would reveal to us.  
Amen.

## WE LISTEN

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

### ***A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14:1-6)***

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



## WE REFLECT

"In my Father's house there are many rooms." (John 14:2) In speaking of the Father's house, Jesus is not pointing to a mansion in the sky, but to God's heart. God's heart is big, wide-open and generous. It embraces everything. We are assured that in the heart of God there is room enough even for us. Often the Psalms describe God as our psychological "dwelling place" (PS 90:1, 91:9) and other times it refers to the whole of creation or universe. God's "house" or "dwelling place" is where God is and wherever God's presence is, there is an abundance of love and grace. John 14:2 simply reminds us that that there is plenty of room when it comes to our God.

*Pause for a moment of reflection.*

## WE RESPOND

In this time of COVID-19 we have seen many instances of simple and extraordinary acts of generosity. Many have purchased groceries for a neighbour in need, children have used their pocket money to assist those most affected, small businesses have opened their doors to letters of hope and care. There is something about this pandemic that is binding people together. These generous acts of love and kindness are a welcome antidote to the background hum of worry during this pandemic.

*What are the opportunities to show others the big, wide-open and generous heart of God through us this week?*



*In My Father's House* by Patricia Howitt

## CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, teach us to be generous;  
teach us to serve you as you deserve,  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to seek reward,  
except that of knowing that I do your will.

*St. Ignatius Loyola*

**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**