

# Prayers of the People for Easter Sunday 2020

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Well, it's Easter. Are you enjoying the chocolate bunnies? The brightly-coloured eggs? The thought of a festive ham or turkey dinner with family later today?

Me neither. Not this year.

Still, I ask you to join me in prayer. Seeking wisdom and wholeness, we pray for all believers, the world, and those in need.

Make nurturing relationships blossom in our congregation and radiate out from it. In the midst of human connection, we see the face of God. Teach us to give and receive strength from sharing the best and worst life offers within a community of caring. Move us beyond fear that keeps us from loving. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

Enable us to change our habits, in small ways and in big ways, so that life continues in its abundance and variety. Transform our moments of awe into passionate care of the earth. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

Move political leaders and nations into action that showers more and more people with health, economic security, and dignity. Move us away from the prejudices that keep us from knowing and understanding others. Heal victims of torture, and liberate those wrongly imprisoned or detained. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

Bless all who teach us faith: bishops and priests, and everyday saints we encounter day by day.

We pray for the leaders of our church, nationally, in our diocese and in our parish. Grant them wisdom and vision in these unusual times to lead your people faithfully. Strengthen those parts of your church throughout the world that are most profoundly affected by this pandemic. May they know your strength and your love.

**Lord, Hear our prayer.**

Come, come quickly to the aid of those who suffer. Refresh all those thirsting for hope, healing, and love, especially Catharine and Tom, Denis, Kerry, Alice, Christina, David, Eric, Jack, Joyce, Lorna, Mateo, Michael, Millie, Bill, Deb, Pat, and those whom we name aloud or silently within our hearts. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died, remembering Tami Sheppard, cousin of Catharine Midgley. Receive her in to the arms of your mercy, and bless those who grieve her death with comfort and strength. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

Remind us always that it is darkest before the dawn. Let us nurture the knowledge that no difficulty or trial lasts forever, and that these moments pass, often leaving us with greater wisdom and renewed hope to carry on. **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

Remember the bunnies, eggs, and dinners I mentioned in the beginning? They're nice, but not really what Easter is about. And although we celebrate the raising to life of Jesus today, it may still feel like Lent to many of us. Our own personal resurrection may have to wait a little bit longer. But, be patient; it will come.

**Amen**