

Prayers of the people

This Easter

Lord of new life,

We search for you in familiar spaces, and where we expect you to be.
And we become discouraged when you're not there.

On this day of resurrection, help us you find you in new and unexpected places. In the faces of strangers, in a world of chaos, and in the depths of our own being as we struggle to make sense of strange new situations.

Today and every day we pray for those who are sick and suffering, and for those grieving the loss of loved ones, especially those who mourn alone.

We pray for medical personnel, and others who work to help and heal. And we pray for the scientists working away to understand the things that plague us.

We pray for the ministers and therapists of every kind bringing words of comfort. And churches working to discern new and faithful forms of ministry.

We pray for those who are subjected to racist abuse and discrimination. Those whose livelihoods are threatened by business closures.

We pray for families learning to live, work and learn together in close quarters. And those separated from loved ones because of travel and immigration restrictions.

We pray especially for those who are not safe in their homes. And those struggling with isolation, loneliness and addiction.

We pray for wisdom for leaders as they seek to respond to this crisis. And we give thanks for the artists, and poets, singers and storytellers, and all those who nourish with words, sound and colour.

Dear Lord, the Church may be locked this Easter. But may our hearts be opened to your presence. Let the heavy stone be rolled away, and may we discover your resurrection light.

In the name of the risen Christ.

Amen.