

The Diocese of Melbourne  
Liturgical Committee

## **Prayer and Intercession**

### **Prayers at a Time of Need**

*Authorised by the Archbishop of Melbourne  
for use in the Diocese of Melbourne  
20 August 2021*



# The Great Litany

*Sections 1 and 6 are always used, together with all or a selection of the other sections.*

1

[Let us pray.]

God the Father,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Son,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, one God,  
**have mercy on us.**

2

From all evil and mischief;  
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred and malice;  
and from all evil intent,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;  
from hardness of heart  
and contempt of your word and your laws,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;  
from deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

From famine and disaster;  
from plague and pestilence;  
from violence, murder and dying unprepared,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow;  
in all times of joy;  
in the hour of our death and at the day of judgement,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

3

Hear our prayers, O Lord our God.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

Govern and direct your holy Church;  
fill it with love and truth;  
and grant it that unity which is your will.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world,  
and to make disciples of all the nations.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

Enlighten your ministers with knowledge and understanding,  
that by their teaching and their lives  
they may proclaim your word.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

Give your people grace to hear and receive your word,  
and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

Bring into the way of truth  
all who have erred and are deceived.  
**Hear us, good Lord**

Strengthen those who stand;  
comfort and help the fainthearted;  
raise up the fallen;  
and finally beat down Satan under our feet.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

4

Guide the leaders of the nations  
into the ways of peace and justice.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

Guard and strengthen your servant, Elizabeth the Queen,  
that she may put her trust in you  
and seek your honour and glory.  
**Hear us, good Lord.**

Endue the members of our parliaments  
and all who govern us  
with wisdom and understanding.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless those who administer the law,  
that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory,  
and for the good of all.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Forgive the sins committed against the ancient peoples of this land  
and move our hearts towards reconciliation.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Bless and keep all your people.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

5

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved,  
and the oppressed.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Keep in safety those who travel,  
and all who are in danger.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Heal the sick in body and mind,  
and provide for the homeless, the hungry  
and the destitute.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show your pity on prisoners and refugees,  
and all who are in trouble.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers,  
and turn their hearts.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us as we remember with thanksgiving those who have died  
in the peace of Christ,  
and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

**Lord, have mercy.**

6

Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal:  
have mercy on us.**

*The litany may conclude with the Lord's Prayer, the collect of the day, the prayer of St John Chrysostom (Morning & Evening Prayer, First Order, ¶ 21) and the grace.*

## Litany for Peace and Reconciliation

We pray to our crucified and risen Lord  
who promised to be with us in suffering and in joy:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Give us the courage to make for peace and work for reconciliation:  
May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus  
bring strength in suffering to your people  
and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Give us the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred:  
May the shoulders of the risen Jesus,  
once scourged by soldiers,  
bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Give us the courage to give up our own quarrels, strife and division:  
May the presence of the risen Jesus,  
his body once broken and now made whole,  
bring peace and direction as we live together as members of the same body.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Give us the courage to live for others,  
giving time, care and comfort to the sick and those in need:  
May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing,  
and the light of his presence fill their lives.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death  
and to commend those who have died in faith to God's eternal care:  
May the risen Lord Jesus, whose feet were once nailed to the cross,  
walk alongside the dying and bereaved,  
and lead them and all your Church,  
through death to the gate of glory.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Give us courage and do not abandon us in our desolation,  
keep your people safe in the midst of trouble,  
and complete your purpose for us  
through your steadfast love and faithfulness,  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

*The litany may conclude with the Lord's Prayer and the grace*

(2)

## Litany at Time of Crisis

1 We stand before you in prayer, O Lord:

*Silence may be kept*

We pray for the safety of those *in danger/held captive at this time*: comfort the fearful and strengthen the weak, O Lord, and hold your embrace in all those who face suffering and oppression.

**Have mercy, Lord Jesus.**

We pray for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership at this time: be with those in authority in our federal government and the government of our state, O Lord. Grant them the gift of wisdom and resolve in the search for a swift resolution to this crisis, and the will to work for reconciliation and lasting peace.

**Have mercy, Lord Jesus.**

We pray for the safety of our police forces and emergency services, and all who uphold public order in *place* and throughout our land: protect them from danger, O Lord, give them courage when facing unknown dangers.

**Have mercy, Lord Jesus.**

We pray for religious and community leaders, and those committed to promoting peace: raise up peace-makers and peace-keepers, O Lord, and foster in the hearts of all the longing for reconciliation that is the root of lasting peace.

**Have mercy, Lord Jesus.**

We pray for the future security of our world: grant us a spirit of tolerance and mutual respect, O Lord, and equip us to work for peace and freedom, for justice and the rule of law, that together we might go forward with confidence and hope.

**Have mercy, Lord Jesus.**

*The litany may conclude with the Lord's Prayer and the grace,  
or with the following prayers of commitment*

2 We commit ourselves to bring healing and transformation to the world,  
and to foster a common vision of peace:

Lord God, help us to know that goodness is stronger than evil,  
love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death,  
and that victory is ours through the One who loved us so much,  
that he gave his life for his friends, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3 May Almighty God bless and keep us, guard our bodies, save our souls and bring us safely  
to the heavenly country, our eternal home, where he reigns forever. **Amen.**

(2)





## Litany and Intercessions for the People of Afghanistan

1 *One or more persons may share in leading this litany and lighting candles*

We come together in the presence of God  
to bring before him our lament and sorrow  
and to pray for peace.

We commit to God's eternal peace  
all those who have died in Afghanistan:  
civilians, soldiers, security personnel.  
We remember our own friends and loved ones  
who lost their lives in Afghanistan.  
We pray for all who, in their bodies and spirits,  
still carry the wounds of this conflict.

*Silence is kept. A candle may be lit*

We ask for God's gift of peace:  
**Prince of Peace, grant your peace.**

We commit to God's compassion and care  
the people of Afghanistan:  
all those who remain desolate and destitute,  
living in turmoil and uncertainty.  
We remember those afraid of losing their dignity and future:  
women and children, religious minorities,  
and any who may face persecution.

*Silence is kept. A candle may be lit*

We ask for God's gift of protection:  
**Everlasting Father, grant your protection.**

We commit to God's justice and mercy  
the wrong done in Afghanistan:  
We remember with shame the times  
when soldiers and workers  
have acted badly and arrogantly,  
and by their inaction or actions  
have brought harm to the people.

*Silence is kept. A candle may be lit*

We ask for God's gift of forgiveness:  
**Wonderful Counsellor, grant your forgiveness.**

We commit to God's providence and protection  
the future of Afghanistan:  
We give thanks for all who have  
contributed to the wellbeing and flourishing of others,  
and ask that their work may not have been in vain.  
We pray that, despite our fears, the government of the future

will act with justice and compassion, restrain evil and revenge, and instead promote the safety and good of all.

*Silence is kept. A candle may be lit*

We ask for God's gift of grace:

**Mighty God, grant your grace.**

- 2 God of all mercy, your Son Jesus ministered to those in need: We pray for our fractured world, and all who suffer because of war; by loss of home and country; by loss of friends and loved ones; by loss of happiness, security or freedom. We pray for all whose hearts are still bitter, and who find it difficult to forgive. Banish from us the spirit that makes for war and instil in our hearts a love for peace and for our fellows.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all mercy, your Son Jesus died for the sins of the world: Forgive the sins of Western nations and people whose actions and inactions have contributed to the harm, grief and poverty of the people of Afghanistan. We pray that your mercy and grace transform our arrogance and evil to humility and love, to understanding and generous compassion, for the long-term benefit of the people of Afghanistan.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all wisdom, your Son Jesus challenged the folly of his day: Give wisdom to all governments and leaders, that they may know how and when to be involved in the affairs of other nations, put the interests of others ahead of their own, and act in ways that promote the long term good and the lasting peace of our world.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all consolation, your Son Jesus came into this world to turn the darkness of death and suffering into the dawn of new life: We pray for those who lost loved ones in the conflict in Afghanistan – Afghans and Westerners. Draw them closer to each other in their common grief. Be for them a refuge and strength. Comfort them with your presence. Grant them confidence in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life which your Son promises to all who place their trust in him.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all compassion, your Son Jesus prayed for his friends to be protected from evil and harm: We pray for the people of Afghanistan. For all who fear for family and friends left behind, all who are being evacuated, all who now seek asylum. We pray for their protection and for those who work to bring them to safety. We pray for our leaders, that they would be generous in offering asylum and the chance to rebuild lives to all who have been displaced.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all peace, your Son Jesus promised his gift of his peace: We pray that the gift of peace may come to war-torn Afghanistan. We pray for those who now administer the nation. We pray they will exercise wisdom and restraint, that they will cherish the dignity of each human life; that they will promote and honour human rights; that they will protect women, children and vulnerable people from harm; they will not act in retaliation; so that peace and goodwill will flourish for all in Afghanistan.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of our future, your Son Jesus promised that he would be with us even unto the end of the age: We pray for ourselves that we may be people who know your presence and peace in times of difficulty and trouble. We pray that all who now are hopeless will be given the courage to face each new day strengthened by the knowledge that you are with them always.

Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

## Prayers for Light and Peace at the End of the Day

1 *The leader may begin by saying*

Peace be to this home, and all who live in it.  
**Amen.**

*A candle may be lit.*

2 *The following intercessions may be used*

### INTERCESSIONS FOR LIGHT

'I am the light of the world', says the Lord:  
'whoever follows me will never walk in darkness  
but will have the light of life'.

*We pray for our church:*

*For our Archbishop,  
for our Episcopate Bishop, [the ministries listed in the cycle of prayer] and our home churches.*

May we who bear Christ's name,  
shine his life-giving light into the darkness of this night.

Jesus, light of life,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

'I have come as light into the world', says the Lord:  
'everyone who believes in me  
should not remain in the darkness'.

*We pray for our world, longing for light and life:*

*for our Prime Minister,  
for our Premier [and during a pandemic for the Chief Medical Officers and Health Officials of our  
nation and state and those in our community working to contain the spread of the pandemic].*

May we who bear Christ's name,  
shine his life-giving light into the darkness of this night.

Jesus, light of life,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

'The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it'.

*We pray for all for those struggling with the effects of illness and fear:*

*For those infected and in hospital, those fearful of infection, those in quarantine or self-isolation, those who have lost their jobs and livelihood, those who are fearful of the future [and, during a curfew, all who enter curfew].*

May we who bear Christ's name,  
shine his life-giving light into the darkness of this night.

Jesus, light of life,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

'Believe in the light, so that you may become children of light'.

*We pray for all for whom these days are dark and difficult.  
We pray for our neighbours and loved ones.*

May we who bear Christ's name,  
shine his life-giving light into the darkness of this night.

Jesus, light of life,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

'In Christ is life, and the life is the light of all people'.

*We entrust into Christ's eternal light all those who have died,  
those who have died of illness or conflict this day, those who mourn them.  
We pray for our own departed loved ones, whom we recall with thanksgiving.*

May we who bear Christ's name,  
shine his life-giving light into the darkness of this night.

Jesus, light of life,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

#### INTERCESSIONS FOR PEACE

'I am the vine and you are the branches', says the Lord:

'If you remain in me and I in you,  
you will bear much fruit'.

*We pray for our church:*

*For our Archbishop,  
for our Episcopate Bishop, [the ministries listed in the cycle of prayer] and our home churches.*

May Christ abide in us

**that we may also abide in him.**

Jesus, prince of peace,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

‘This is my commandment’, says the Lord:  
‘that you love another  
as I have loved you’.

*We pray for our community:*

*For the members of our home church  
for our neighbours and friends,  
for all who long for connection and friendship.*

May Christ abide in us  
**that we may also abide in him.**

Jesus, prince of peace,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

‘Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you’, says the Lord:  
‘do not let your hearts be troubled,  
and do not let them be afraid’.

*We pray for our world, longing for peace:*

*For our Prime Minister,  
for our Premier [and during a pandemic for the Chief Medical Officers and Health Officials of our  
nation and state and those in our community working to contain the spread of the pandemic].*

May Christ abide in us  
**that we may also abide in him.**

Jesus, prince of peace,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

‘You are my friends if you do what I command you’, says the Lord:  
‘love one another as I have loved you’.

*We pray for all who show forth loving service in the name of Christ:*

*For those who care for the homeless, for emergency workers working through the night, for prisoners,  
those in self-isolation or quarantine, for those in hospitals or ill at home, those who have lost their jobs  
and livelihood, those who are fearful of the future [and, during a curfew, all who enter curfew].*

May Christ abide in us  
**that we may also abide in him.**

Jesus, prince of peace,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

'I am the resurrection and the life', says the Lord:  
'Those who believe in me will live,  
even though they die'.

*We pray for all those facing death this night,  
and for those who mourn*

May Christ abide in us  
**that we may also abide in him.**

Jesus, prince of peace,  
hear your people:  
**and answer our prayer.**

**3** *The evening collect concludes the intercessions*

Lighten our darkness, Lord we pray,  
and in your great mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night  
for the love of your only Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**4** *The Lord's Prayer is said*

**Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us,  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**5** *The service may conclude with the grace*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

(2)

# Prayers and Thanksgiving

## Prayers for the Church and the World

### 1 The church

God of our calling, you have called us to serve the world with generosity and to know that in serving others we are serving your Son. Strengthen all those who follow your way to remain faithful in prayer and active in service; that in these difficult times, many may experience the gift of your love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(3)

2 Lord of all creation, thank you for the many signs that remind us that our salvation is close at hand. May we see the growth of your kingdom and recognise the flourishing of your gracious rule in the lives of those around us. Keep us faithful in our watching for you, and do not delay. Maranatha – come Lord Jesus. Amen.

(9)

### 3 The world

O Lord our God, source of all goodness and love, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

(4)

4 O God our heavenly Father, whose love sets no boundaries and whose strength is in service; grant to the leaders of the nations wisdom, courage and insight at this time of change and uncertainty. Give to all who exercise authority determination to defend the principles of freedom, love and tolerance, strength to protect and safeguard the innocent and clarity of vision to guide the world into the paths of justice and peace. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(6)

### 5 For economic wellbeing

God of plenty, and sustainer of all those in distress, comfort all those who are anxious about the financial implications of COVID-19. Direct our leaders to ways of wisdom and compassion, direct our businesses in ways of shrewdness and understanding, direct each one of us in ways of generosity and care, that through our concern for one another, individuals, organisations and our whole society would be given the strength to endure these present challenges, and to work towards a shared future with hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(3)

### 6 For the unemployed or underemployed

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(5)



**7 For those in need**

Father of all, you call us to be generous to one another, and to recognise in their faces the true image of your Son. Give us grace as individuals, and as a whole society, that in this time of great need we may minister friendship and support to all those who are in need of the service of others this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(2)

**8 For places of learning**

God of all truth, teach us to love you with heart and mind. Bless our schools, colleges and universities that they may be lively centres for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom. May all who teach and all who learn seek and love the truth, and in humility look to you, the source of all wisdom and understanding, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(1)

**9 For those suffering abuse**

Father of mercy, look with compassion on our world, in which the innocent still suffer. Forgive us, when we failed to stand up to violence and abuse, or remained silent. Forgive us, when we were complicit in causing suffering, or closed our hearts to the distress of survivors. Let your justice flow like streams of living water: purify us from our sins and set us free to bring the reconciling love of your Son to this world. Amen.

(9)

**10 Those facing acts of terror**

Grant, Lord, to all who suffer as a result of acts of terror your spirit of healing, your spirit of life, your spirit of peace, of hope, strength and patience: Take away the spirit of anxiety and fear grant them the trust and hope perfected in you. In your light may they see light and in your peace may they find peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(9)

**11 In times of national emergency**

Almighty God and heavenly Father, we pray for this world that you love so much that you sent your Son Jesus to be born as the child of Bethlehem: we pray for the safety of those facing this current crisis. We remember our own loved ones and those who are dear to us. We pray for those tending to the injured, the frightened and the broken-hearted, for emergency services, emergency broadcasters, chaplains and counsellors. We ask for your forgiveness for our own failures in safeguarding your good creation, and pray for political and community leaders, and all those responding to the current crisis in our nation. Above all, we pray the peace that passes all understanding, in our nation and state, in our homes and in our hearts. This we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(9)

**12 For emergency workers**

We thank you, living God, for the fire fighters and emergency service workers, both volunteers and professionals, who risk their own safety to protect people and property. Bless and protect them as they serve us in times of crisis, give them skill and care as they work through fatigue, fear and danger. To every community now *shadowed by the smoke of bushfires/ facing floods/facing drought*, give a strong spirit, generous neighbours, and the resources they need to care for one another and for the land. Refresh us in our faith that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(10)

### **13 For emergency workers who died in service**

Lord of life and conqueror of death, we commit into your hands the souls of the emergency workers and fire fighters who have perished in the bushfires in our nation, we give thanks for their lives, for their courage, commitment and service to others. We now hold before you those who loved them, cared for them, and worked with them, their loved-ones, families, friends, their colleagues and mates. Come close to them, Lord Jesus Christ, in the darkness of these days be their light, in their grieving be their comfort, in their mourning be for them the sure and certain hope that death has been defeated and life is made eternal. For you gift life even where lives are cut short and taken, and you are alive and reign, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(9)

## Prayers for Individuals

### **14 For the anxious**

O Lord, our refuge, our hope, and our peace, be with us this and all our days, as our protector and our salvation. Calm our anxieties, ease our fears, and soften our sadness, that we may find in you our true rest, and our perfect restoration, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(3)

### **15 For loved ones apart**

God of all love, in whom we are all united, and from whom we can never be parted, strengthen all those far from loved ones this day. Help us to know your presence with us and with them and strengthen our hearts by your spirit, that they and we may know the consolation of our fellowship in you, and may hope in due time, for the joy of reunion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(3)

**16** God our Father, from whom every family on earth takes its name, be with all those who are far from loved ones today. Ease their anxiety, soften their sadness, deepen their gratitude for one another, and remind us all of your love, from which neither height, nor depth, nor any other creature can separate us, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(3)

## Prayers during a Pandemic

**17** Lord Jesus Christ, great physician and healer of souls, now give us your peace: protect those working with the sick and infected, enable researchers and laboratory staff as they seek and test a cure, grant swift and complete healing to those infected, calm the hearts of those fearing the impact of the pandemic on their own lives, give your wisdom to leaders of nations and organisations as they make plans for the people in their care, be present with all who are lonely and isolated, comfort those who are dying and those who mourn loved ones. Through the power of the Holy Spirit enable us to know you, love you, and place our trust in you, the God who heals and restores life, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

(9)

**18** O God our heavenly Father, your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, healed the sick, cured the blind and deaf and raised the dead and, throughout all history, holds dominion over disease and death: in your mercy to this world, arrest and eradicate this

coronavirus. Heal the afflicted and comfort those who have suffered from this scourge; so that those who suffer may know your healing heart and hand, that those who are anxious or burdened may know your comfort and peace that passes understanding, that the watching world may know your sovereign authority, prevailing power, mercy, and grace, and that all may come to know, love and worship you; we ask in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(8)

**19** Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

(4)

**20** Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

(4)

**21** God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(4)

**22 For hospital staff**

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those working to provide a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(4)

**23 For those in isolation**

God of all healing, who called the light to shine in the darkness at creation and in whose eternal light there is no darkness at all, be yourself a light of hope to those who dwell in darkness. Be a support to the fearful, a listener to the lonely, a purpose to those in despair, that amongst the confusions and struggles of this world they would find the path that leads to the fullness of life, and joy, and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(3)

**24 For the suffering**

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain in body, mind or spirit, knowing that whenever danger threatens, your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(3)

**25 In times of disappointment**

God of hope, in times of disappointment you lead us to seek fresh purpose and new hope. Be with those who are unable to participate in events they were looking forward to. Amidst the sadness, help us to find joy in the simple things of daily living, and amidst the difficulty of today, remind us of the hope of better things to come through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(3)

## Other Prayers

- 26** Lord Jesus, Word from the beginning, made flesh and born in a manger: come and enter our lives. Day by day feed us with your life-giving word until, at the last, you welcome us with your words of eternal life. For you live and reign, with the Father and the Spirit, God in time and eternity. Amen. (9)
- 27** Lord and heavenly Father you have brought us safely to the beginning of this new day: keep us by your mighty power, protect us from sin, and guard us from every kind of danger, and in all that we do direct us in the fulfilling of your purpose through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (1)
- 28** O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (1)
- 29** God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (7)
- 30** Lord of light and life, let your heavenly brightness illumine this world: shine your light of love into our homes and hearts, that we may be bearers of your light and doers of your love in the places and situations where people fear the darkness, and long for your love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (9)

## Acknowledgements

*These resources have been compiled by the Liturgical Committee of the Diocese of Melbourne, except for any material to which acknowledgement is made by a number that refers to the list of sources or authors below. A text accompanied by the symbol \* indicates that alterations have been made.*

### ***The Anglican Church in Australia***

1 *A Prayer Book for Australia*

### ***Individual Churches***

2 *St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne*

3 *Canterbury Cathedral*

### ***The Anglican Communion***

4 *The Church of England*

5 *The Episcopal Church*

6 *The Diocese of Oxford*

7 *The Mothers' Union*

### ***Individuals***

8 *The Rt Revd Dr Paul Barker*

9 *The Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe*

10 *The Revd Dr Elizabeth Smith*