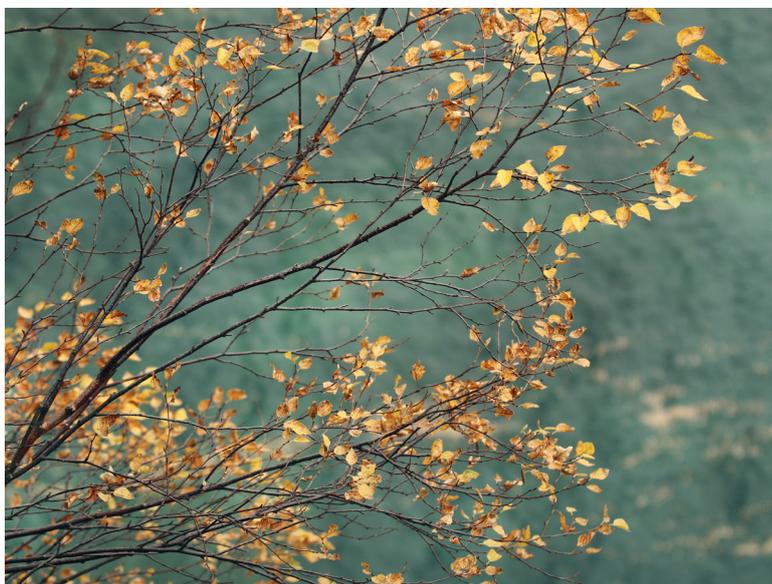


UNITED IN PRAYER

And the world came together as the people stayed apart.¹

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



INTENTIONS

We remember today our Marists communities and ministries.

We pray for all students in our schools affected by the disruption to their learning.

We pray for our elderly Marist Brothers; may they remain safe and well.

For what else shall we pray...

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

OPENING PRAYER

God of Love

As we come to you today,

fill our hearts and our whole being with the wonder of your presence.

Help us remain receptive to you;

to make appropriate choices, not just for ourselves, but for all people.

Loving God, be close, fill our minds with peace and keep us safe in your love.²

Amen

WE LISTEN

Speak Lord, your servant is listening...

Beloved,

Let us love one another

Because love is from God

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God,

for God is love.

1 John 4: 7-8 (NRSV)

LOVE DOES THAT

MESITER ECKHART

*All day long a little burro labours,
sometimes
with heavy loads on her back and
sometimes just with worries
about things that bother only
burros.*

*And worries, as we know, can be more
exhausting
than physical labour.*

*Once in a while a kind monk comes
to her stable and brings
a pear, but more
than that,*

*he looks into the burro's eyes and
touches her ears*

*and for a few seconds the burro is free
and even seems to laugh,*

*because love does
that*

Love frees.³

WE REFLECT

Allow a word or a phrase to emerge from this scriptural passage and repeat that word or phrase over and over in your mind and in your heart.

What message is there for you today in this word or phrase?

Where in your life do you experience love?

How do you tend, nurture and affirm?

Pause for a moment of reflection.

WE RESPOND



Today, those of us who follow in the footsteps of Marcellin and his first disciples are seized by the same inner dynamism. We develop a way of being, loving and doing, in the spirit of our origins. Gradually, day by day, we deepen our experience of the loving presence of God within ourselves and in others. This presence of God is a profound experience of being personally loved by God, and the conviction that he is close to us in our daily human experiences. (WFR 16)

"When love awakens in your life, in the night of your heart, it is like the dawn breaking within you. Where before there was anonymity, now there is intimacy; where before there was fear, now there is courage; where before in your life there was awkwardness, now there is a rhythm of grace and gracefulness; where before you used to be jagged, now you are elegant and in rhythm with your self. When love awakens in your life, it is like a rebirth, a new beginning."⁵

CLOSING PRAYER

(in the words of Pope Francis Urbi Et Orbi address on Friday 27 March)

Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts.

You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful.

But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm.

Tell us again: *"Do not be afraid"* (Mt 28:5).

And we, together with Peter, *"cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us"* (cf. 1 Pet 5:7).

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

TOGETHER AT THE EDGE: TRUST ME⁴

NOEL DAVIS

Embrace Life

All of Life

Trust me.

*Launch out into the deep
into*

Bliss

Blessing

Confusion

Comedy

Sadness

Absurdity

Hurt

Grief

Contradiction

New Life

Thanksgiving

Know I am with you in it all.

Trust Me.

¹ Jennifer Wagner, 2020

² Adapted from *The Irish Jesuits, Sacred Space P:163*

³ Mesiter Eckhart, *Love Does That*, 2002.

⁴ Noel Davis, *Together at the Edge: Trust Me*, 2011.

⁵ John O'Donohue, *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*, 1997