

Prayers 13 September

In response to the message

Loving heavenly Father, thank you for your amazing full and free forgiveness you have made possible by the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Help us to grasp the full weight of our sin and therefore, the full weight of your forgiveness. Forgive us for ever thinking that our forgiveness was a light matter.

And as we fully grasp the significance of and cost of our forgiveness, may we be empowered to forgive others, even as we have been forgiven. Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer**

COVID-19

Loving Father, the Victorian lockdown is obviously taking its toll and the impact for many people of the border closures is also becoming clear. And the economic cost of shutting down our economy seems as we now see it more clearly is disturbing.

And yet dear Lord, we are also saddened by the loss of life – both here and overseas – and we understand that the infection rate and death rates in other nations are very much worse than what we have here. We think specifically of India and Argentina, Indonesia, Europe.

You invite us to cast all our cares on you because you care for us... so we do now come and cast these cares on you – our care for loved ones of those who have died from COVID-19; our care for those presently infected; our care for world leaders and health authorities; our care for relationships here between the federal and state governments; our care for those now without work or small business owners who have had to close; our care for a way out of this mess where we can live again a relatively normal life. We cast these cares on you Lord and ask that you please kindly and powerfully intervene to stop the spread, reduce the risk, provide answers and bring this terrible chapter to a close.

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

For synod – which meets next Saturday 19th via zoom...

We pray Lord God for the synod of our diocese meeting under extraordinary circumstances and with a limited agenda next Saturday. Please help those who are preparing to do wisely and diligently without feeling overwhelmed. Please be with the bishop as he prepares and delivers his first address to synod. We pray that despite the challenges of meeting via zoom, it may be an encouraging time which gives us hope for the future and the encouragement to press on in your service.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Thanks for rain

Finally Father, as I drove to West Wyalong and back last week, I couldn't help but be amazed at how good the fields and paddocks and crops are looking. How slow are we sometimes to return thanks for the way you heard our cries for rain. So we thank you so much for the rain that has fallen so far this year; for crops sown, for feed provided, for hopes lifted. We pray that all this will result in a wonderful harvest and good selling prices, so that farmers and graziers will begin to recoup their losses and rebuild their business.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**