

## Prayers 28 Mar

### IN RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE:

Today, we want to say thank you Lord for Jesus: our **Lamb** who takes away the sin of the world; for Jesus our **substitute** who by dying for us, released us from death; and Jesus our servant, who served us by giving his life as a ransom for us. Father grant that in these most special days which lay ahead in Holy Week, we may love Jesus all the more as we see with again what you've done for us through him. And may we live in response by giving of ourselves wholeheartedly to you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### NEW CLERGY FOR OUR DIOCESE

Gracious Lord, thank you for the opportunities Bishop Mark has had in Brisbane this week to visit two of the Bible colleges there, sharing the opportunities of serving you in central and western NSW. We pray for him as he visits another college in Sydney tomorrow and then in Melbourne after Easter. Please lay on the hearts of students, the very great need we currently face for new clergy. May there be good and gifted men and women offer for ministry here who have a heart for Jesus and a heart for people. And please give Mark and the ordination panel, wisdom and discernment should they have opportunity to meet with prospective candidates. Father, we long to see all our churches know the joy and benefits of resident clergy, and humbly ask that you would provide us with the people and finances we need. We ask this in Jesus' name, so that his name will be proclaimed, and his church built up. **Amen.**

### EASTER

God of grace and mercy, we thank you that we will be able to gather to celebrate Easter this year. We pray that our Easter services will be reverent, moving, fresh and real. Please help clergy and lay ministers across the diocese to prepare well for Easter. Please empower them to explain clearly, the life-changing message of your grace so that we might respond again with love and awe; with praise and worship. We pray that people will respond to our invitation to come to church this Easter. We especially pray that if any do not really know you, our services will spark within them, a wonderful desire to more about Jesus and how they can find forgiveness and new life through him. All this we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### THOSE IN NEED:

Finally Father, please bless and help everyone in our churches who are grieving; those who are sick; those who are anxious and those who are finding life tough for any other reason. Help them to run to you as their refuge and to draw strength from you. May they come to know that peace which passes understanding, which can only come as they put their trust in you; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**