**The Universal Prayer**

**Sunday 28th April 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers,

 our closeness to Jesus is illustrated

by Jesus in the image of the vine and its branches.

We pray that the fruits of holiness, charity and justice

will be his gifts to us.

1. We pray for Pope Francis who makes a pastoral

visit to the city of Venice today, that his meeting with women prisoners, with the youth, and the celebration of the Eucharist with the people, will enliven their faith in Jesus.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray for that the visit of Pope Francis to the Vatican pavilion

at the Venice Biennale, with its focus on human rights and those on the margins of society, will stimulate artists to by agents for change in our world.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray for each other in the Church, that living in Christ,

 we will seek holiness by prayer and charity, and so be agents

 for change and healing in our broken world.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray on this World Day for Safety and Health at Work for

 good working conditions for all workers, healing for those injured

 or made sick through their work, and justice in every working

 situation.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray with greater intensity for peace and the relief of those

 suffering across the Holy Land, in Ukraine, Ethiopia and Sudan,

remembering Christians in Northern Nigeria who continue to be murdered, with their churches and homes destroyed.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray for . . . .

Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray for those who have died in wars and though violence

against women, that they may live in God forever.

We also remember…

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

Celebrant: Almighty and ever-living God,

 place into our hearts a sincere love for one another

 revealed in our thoughts, words and actions,

so that others may know that we are disciples of your Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Monday 29th April 2024**

**St Catherine of Siena**

**Monday Fifth Week of Easter**

Celebrant: Jesus invites us to keep his word out of love for him

 who loved us to death, and who loves us for eternity.

1. May we all love the commandments of Christ

and live them in the spirit of his love.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. May our young people from across the Archdiocese who are preparing for their Confirmation this year receive the Holy Spirit who will remind them of everything Christ has taught us.

Christ, hear us.

1. May our praise of people never distract us from God,

the source of all that is good and noble and holy.

Christ, hear us.

1. May the commitment of Paul and Barnabas to proclaiming Christ

be with all who today are insulted and threatened because they too

give witness to Jesus.

Christ, hear us.

1. May those who honour St Catherine of Siena as patron:

the students and staff of St Catherine’s School at Stirling, along with the people of Italy, that all may have a love for the Church, the Body of Christ.

 Christ, hear us.

1. May the violence in the Holy Land come to an end and humanitarian aid be given to the Palestinians and the hostages be released.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Heavenly God,

 bless our world with that peace which comes from

 the Heart of the risen Christ,

 for he is Lord, for ever and ever.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Tuesday 30th April 2024**

**St Pope Pius V**

**Tuesday 5th Week of Easter**

Celebrant: My friends, Christ’s blessing peace

is desperately needed all over our world.

1. That all who preach the gospel, teach theology, educate young people in Catholic Schools and as catechists in our parishes,

may do so as true servants of Jesus Christ.

Christ, hear us.

1. That those whose hearts are troubled or afraid

may come to know that lasting peace

which is the gift of the risen Jesus.

Christ, hear us.

1. That like Jesus Christ,

we may all do exactly what the Father wants.

Christ, hear us.

1. That there may be peace for the people of Sudan, Ukraine and the Holy Land, and humanitarian aid be given to them, as well as to the people of Ethiopia.

Christ, hear us.

1. That Pope St Pius V may intercede for Pope Francis,

so that he is totally dedicated to Jesus Christ,

with a passionate love for the Church and the world.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Eternal God, we will sing your praises

for you have sent your Son among us,

the Living Word, who leads us in truth

now and forever.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Wednesday 1st May 2024**

**St Joseph the Worker**

**Wednesday Fifth Week of Easter**

*Alternate Proper Readings for the Memorial of St Joseph*

Celebrant: My friends, as we honour St Joseph the Worker

we bring to God the needs of workers everywhere.

1. That the Church may find in the example of St Joseph

great inspiration, so that all may be faithful to Jesus,

whom he taught to be a worker.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

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2. That all workers may be blessed today on the feast of their patron, St Joseph, so that their rights may be preserved,

their conditions kept safe, and their environment made friendly.

Christ, hear us.

3. That those who are burdened with unemployment or under-employment, may be given the opportunity to find security

for themselves and their families.

Christ, hear us.

4. That the students from Josephite Schools in Australia and New Zealand may learn from St Mary of the Cross how to find in St Joseph a true friend and protector.

 Christ, hear us.

5. That the people of Lobethal, who honour St Joseph the Worker as patron, along with the Sisters of St Joseph, may be blessed this day.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Eternal God,

as you gave St Joseph to be father and protector

of your Son and showed him the dignity of work,

so may he guide us in the works entrusted to us

for the welfare of our sisters and brothers.

Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Thursday 2nd May 2024**

**St Athanasius**

**Thursday Fifth Week of Easter**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers,

Jesus teaches us the true meaning of love.

1. We pray that as we receive the love of God in this Eucharist,

we abide in that love throughout this day and night.

 Christ, hear us.

 **Christ, graciously hear us.**

1. We pray for a spirit of joy among Christians

so that they can be living signs of hope

in a broken and fragile world.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray for those in authority in the Church,

that they may lead in the spirit of the Apostles,

and not make life unnecessarily difficult for those

who strive to live by faith.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray that the Israeli hostages and the Palestinians imprisoned without charges and the captured Ukrainians will all be released.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray at the start of this Australian Wine Month for those who work to produce this fruit of the vine that they will be able to recovered from recent difficulties, and all who consume wine will do so with moderation.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray that St Athanasius, “champion of Christ’ divinity” in the 4th century, will intercede of faithful Catholic and Orthodox Christians and theologians placed under his care.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Lord our God, we raise our voices to you in praise,

we bless your holy name, and we tell your glory to the nations. Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Friday 3rd May 2024**

**Saints Philip and James, apostles**

*Readings Proper to the Feast*

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers,

 today we honour the apostles Philip and James.

1. We pray for our bishop, Patrick, that as a successor of the apostles

he may be filled with their zeal for the gospel and be courageous in his commitment to the people.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us**.

1. We pray for the people of Uruguay which honours Saints Philip and James as patrons, that they may advance in holiness with respect for one another.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray for Eastern Catholics and the Orthodox who are commemorating Good Friday today, that the sacrificial death of Jesus will deepen their commitment to him.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray on this World Press Freedom Day for the crucial work of the press in bringing truth to the people without fear or favour,

and for the protection of reporters and camera-people in dangerous places.

Christ, hear us.

1. We pray for the reporters and camera people who have died in recent wars, striving to bring to us the truth of what is happening in the world, so that we all are more committed to working for peace.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Lord our God,

 let your truth and love remain with us all,

 so that inspired by the courage of the apostles Philip and James, we can live our Christian life to the full.

 Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Saturday 4th May 2024**

**Saturday Fifth Week of Easter**

Celebrant: Dear friends,

we have been chosen in Christ,

and we rejoice that we are his people.

1. That we may not be enticed by the cares and attractions

of this world, but keep our hearts centred upon

the Kingdom of God.

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us**.

1. That those who are being persecuted for their faith,

especially in Nigeria, may be strong in faith and alive in charity.

Christ, hear us.

1. That voices of parishes in country areas struggling with a lack of priests and opportunities for the Eucharist and the Sacraments, will be heard by the wider Church in the spirit that St Paul heard the cry of the people in Macedonia.

Christ, hear us.

1. That humanitarian aid may be increased for places where people are deprived of the necessities and life - food, water, medicines -

in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank, in Sudan and Ethiopia.

 Christ, hear us.

1. That we will bring to God everyone who has a right or need of our prayers, that Divine Grace will sustain them.

Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Father,

 we want to serve you with gladness

 so that in our hearts there is joy and peace

 which are blessings from your Son, Jesus Christ,

 who is Lord for ever and ever.