

LEAP
(Leave Everything And Pray)
Wednesday 6 May 2020, 7 pm.
Next LEAP 3 June 2020, 7 pm.

Friends, I cannot emphasise more the need of prayer at this unprecedented time when COVID19 is creating such havoc all around the world. It is time to bring ourselves humbly before God and open our hearts to God. We cannot meet in the choir vestry of Leigh Memorial but we can join at 7pm from our home and spend time in prayer together. Find a quiet place, light a candle if possible, relax yourself and join others in spirit and pray.

‘Lockdown’ (By Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM)

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighborhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Below are some prayer points. You may add your own prayers.

- All those suffering from COVID19 in Australia and around the world.
- All medical professionals, emergency staffs, chaplains and carers of COVID19 patients
- WHO and Governments of all nations fighting against COVID19. Those countries that are impoverished and do not have enough necessary medical staffs and other resources to cope with the crises and also are suffering the economic pinch of it.
- Doctors, scientists and researchers trying to find a vaccine and a cure.
- People who are under quarantine or self-isolation
- People who have lost their jobs, businesses that are closed
- People who are under lockdown and have no source of income
- Students, overseas students, children slowly returning to schools or at home, especially Yr. 12 students preparing for HSC.
- Teachers and education staffs returning to work and learning new ways of teaching
- Parents who are looking after their children
- Victims of violence including domestic violence
- Disarmament of deadly weapons
- Churches all over the world
- Uniting Church in Australia
- Parramatta Nepean Presbytery, Parramatta Mission, our three congregations and the Korean faith community
- PM staffs and volunteers, especially those working in the Mental health area, *Mealplus* and Emergency shelters
- Members of our three congregations and the Korean faith Community, especially those who are unwell and isolated.
- Church Council and Future Pastoral Direction.
- Victims of natural calamities, especially Vauatu.
- Organisations and individuals working for peace.
- Disarmament of nuclear and all sorts of deadly weapons everywhere.
- Global refugee problem and also in our own shore.
- Climate Change, victims of climate change and those who are working to undo it.