A large, gnarled pine tree stands on a rocky cliff, its branches reaching out against a vibrant sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale yellow and then to a soft blue at the top. The tree's trunk is thick and twisted, with several smaller branches extending outwards. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

PRAYERS

IN TIME OF A

PANDEMIC

The early Christians prayed in the church of the home. Once more, in troubled times when public worship has to be restricted, we are called to pray in “the domestic church”, always aware of the promise of Jesus, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.”

MATTHEW 18:20



In this challenging time

Lord Jesus Christ, our true physician and healer, be merciful to us and bring us your aid in these troubled times. Heal all our sickness and every affliction of your people.

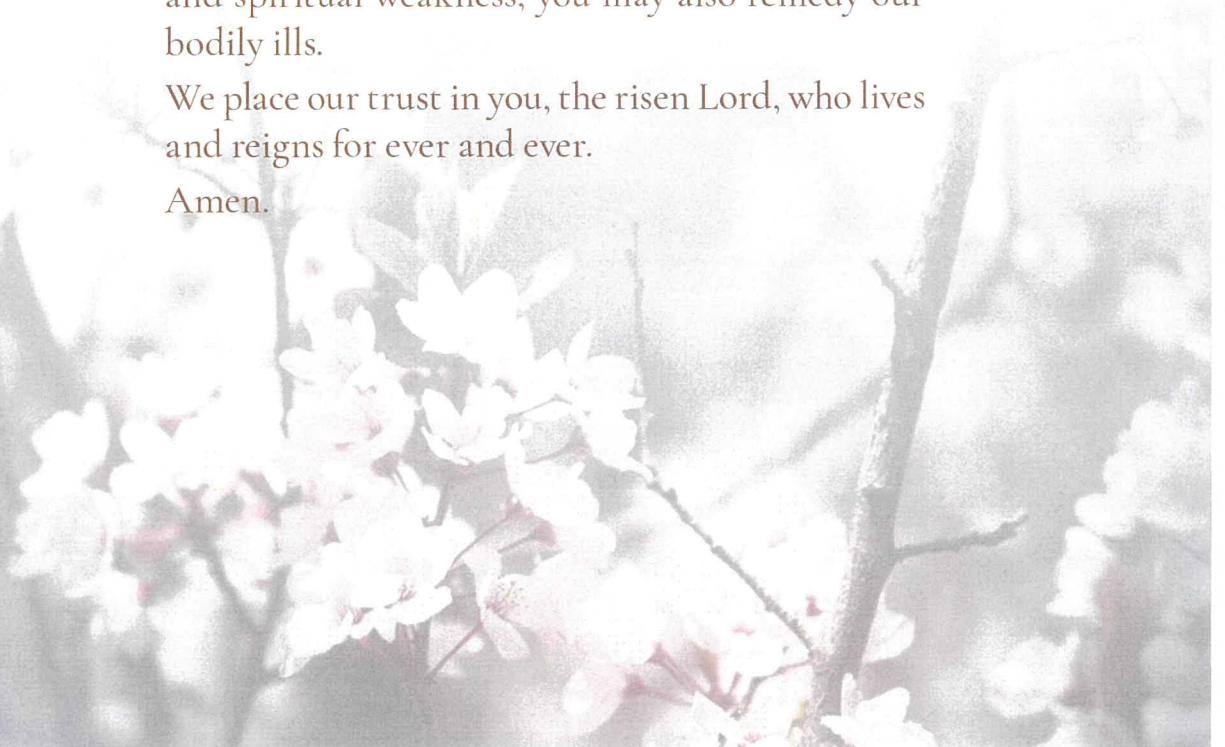
Drive out our infirmities of soul and body; free us from all disease and especially from this pestilence.

We place in your gentle Heart the elderly, the frail, people with disability, children, young people and families, our indigenous peoples, those who are poor, lonely and isolated. As you walk with us, free them from fear, and give them patience and hope together with our loving care.

In your mercy deal also with the causes of our pitiful condition, that in curing our lack of faith and spiritual weakness, you may also remedy our bodily ills.

We place our trust in you, the risen Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.



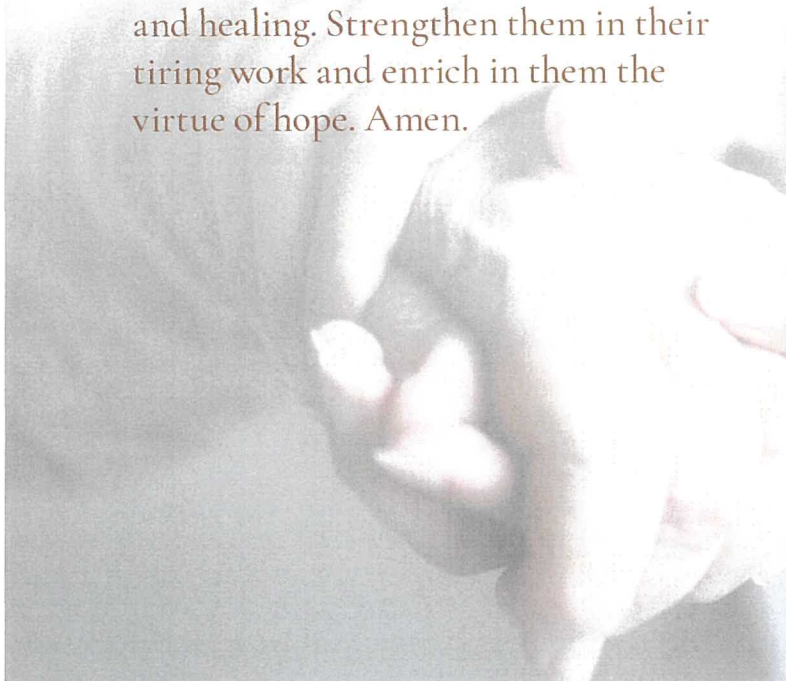
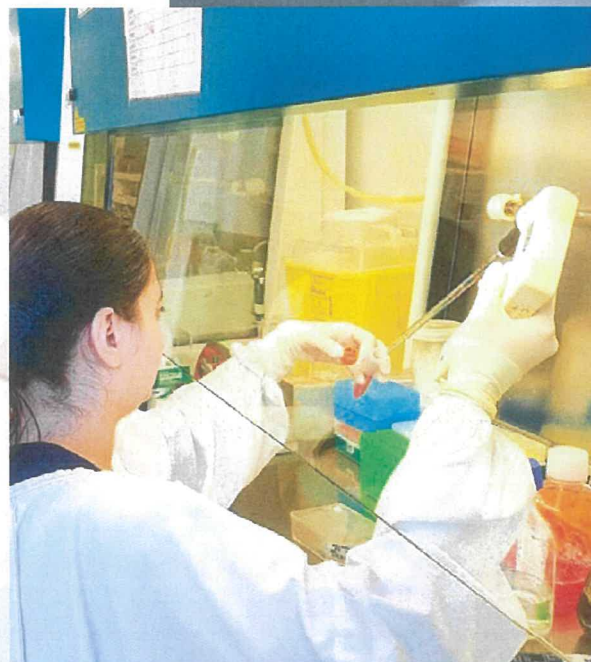
For those who care for the sick

Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick.
When they diagnose, give them patience.
When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection.
When they work to heal, give them strength.
When they comfort, give them consolation.
When they are tired, give them rest.
When they are discouraged, bring them your hope.
May we welcome and respect them
as we support one another in this time of trial.



For those seeking a cure for the virus

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.



For those who govern and represent us

Eternal Wisdom, guide our leaders called to serve us in our Nation. May they respond to the challenges of this affliction with prudence and sound judgement. With foresight, may their planning alleviate the economic burdens, compensate for losses, protect employment and ensure ample food for the poor and isolated. Amen

For humility

Merciful Lord, we stand before you in our human weakness.

We confess that we have been caught up in the pride and presumption that drives our worldly society. Free us from the arrogance that afflicts our age, for now we stand confounded by conditions beyond our control or understanding.

Give us humble and honest hearts to discern the greater mystery of your providence in creation. May we accept your justice and trust your redeeming mercy. Amen

