

## **Intercessions – 5.30am Easter Day 2016**

Lord, that Easter morn, Mary didn't recognize it was you. Close as she was to you, she failed to make the connection. Do we too, as much as we want to, fail to see and hear you? Do we look for you with blinkered eyes, blinded by perception, failing to glimpse your many facets?

### **The World**

Was that you weeping in Brussels this week as bodies were covered and injured rushed away?

Did we see you in the slush and the cold with the refugees in Macedonia, handing out food and blankets and giving words of comfort?

It sounded like your words in Parliament where the call was being made to care for our Earth.

We pray this Easter morn for your world, asking that you might bring change to hearts filled with anger and vengeance, compassion to we who are protective of what we see as ours and are unwilling to share with the other, and an end to greed that rapes our planet for the good of the few to the detriment of the many. Give leaders wisdom and courage and to us give a passion for justice and mercy and peace.

God of the Resurrection – bring us to new life so we might change the world.

### **The Church**

Were they not your words I heard in church the other day; gospel expounded, life explained?

And didn't I see you in the Op Shop talking to the lady who was embarrassed at her change of circumstances, encouraging her and comforting her?

Was that not you who ministered to the lady whose two friends had just drowned on Park Beach? Was it your voice that flowed through the grief and hopelessness? Were you the friend when she had no-one beside her, no-one to hold her, when there were no words to take away the pain of loss?

We pray for your church in its many expressions and with all its fallibilities, for all who serve so that the Gospel is proclaimed, for its work to bring justice and mercy to those on the fringe, and praying that lives might come into relationship with you. We pray for its leaders, and particularly our Bishop, that all may be filled with holy wisdom and strengthened for the work ahead. We pray for us, your body, that we may be faithful and fervent disciples.

May those little ones being baptized today at 9am begin a journey with you that is wondrous and filled with purpose. May we, your church, support them in every step and fulfil our calling.

God of the Resurrection – bring new life to your church so lives are drawn to you.

## **The Community**

Do we find you in the kind word of a neighbour, in the love of partner or friend, in the hug of a child?

Are you found in the service of those who keep us safe or care for our needs?

We pray for all in our community and for all who have come to Coffs this Easter. May we exhibit a care for each other which reflects your love for us. Keep those who travel safe and give to those on holidays refreshment and renewal. Protect all those who protect us; the police, the firies and the ambos, the doctors and the nurses, the lifeguards, and all who provide for the needs of our community.

God of the Resurrection – bring us to new life in this community so that we might be a model to others.

## **The Sick**

Was that you who visited the nursing home this week and spoke to the residents with such care and concern, and with just a little fun, bringing smiles and laughter?

And that nurse, she speaks to people just as you would, makes them feel special and loved.

We pray for all who are sick, all who are in a pit of loneliness, all who are enmeshed in the web of addiction, those feeling trapped in abusive relationships, those in sorrow. We pray particularly for those who are experiencing a first Easter without a loved one. May Holy Spirit be the close companion of all these people, no matter what their need, and may we be open to your call to minister to them, perhaps in ways we are yet to imagine.

God of the Resurrection – bring new life to those whose body or mind needs healing.

## **The Departed**

In this day we have the certainty of resurrection. The empty tomb is stark in its reality.

For all those saints who have gone before us we give you thanks.

For all those saints who walk with us we give you thanks.

We pray that you will give us strength and courage in our journey, eyes to see you and ears to hear your words of beckoning and wisdom, so we may have eternal life with you and all the saints.

God of the Resurrection – hold us close on the journey home.

**AMEN**