



Suggested Prayers - Sunday – 21st of June 2020

1. A prayer of praise (based on Psalm 103)

Heavenly Father, as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is your faithful love to those who fear you. As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us through Jesus.

We praise you because whilst our days are like grass that blooms but then vanishes with the wind, you are from eternity to eternity. We praise you that you have established your kingdom in your son and credit righteousness to us through faith in him. We praise you because you have given us your good word so that we may know how to live as your servants according to your will. Amen.

2. A prayer for our government and leaders

Lord, we are thankful that you are sovereign over all things and that you institute all human leadership. We thank you that all kings, rulers and leaders must answer to you for how they have exercised their authority. We pray that leaders around the world might hear the warning of Psalm 2 and pay homage to your Son and find refuge in him alone.

Thank you for our Prime Minister Mr Morrison and our NSW Premier Ms Berejiklian. Thank you for giving each of them strength to lead and endurance to persevere in their roles during multiple difficult circumstances these past six months. Please continue to give them wisdom that we might live in a peaceful and quiet society where we can live as Christians and freely proclaim the name of Jesus. Amen.

3. A prayer of thankfulness regarding the state of COVID-19 in Australia

Heavenly Father, we thank you for answering our prayers for a reduction in the impact of COVID-19 amongst us in Australia. Thank you that some of the early predictions have not come to pass here. Thank you for all the medical professionals who have worked tirelessly over the last few months to serve the people of our land. Please help us to avoid a second wave of infections in Australia.

Through the experience of COVID-19 this year, we ask that many in our nation will learn to thank you for the abundant blessings we enjoy in Australia and that this time will not pass without people coming to know your son as their Lord and Saviour.

Father we are mindful that in other places around the world COVID-19 is having devastating impacts upon people. We know that in many countries the times of lock down have created desperate situations for people needing access to food and water. So we continue to pray that a vaccine will be found to provide a long term solution and enable other societies to open up again so that people can access the basic necessities of life. Amen.

4. A prayer for us to Glorify God as we Serve Together

Lord, while we eagerly await our return to in-person gatherings, help us to continue to Serve Together as we are able now, for your glory. We are so thankful that Jesus came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for us. Please continue to help us follow his wonderful example by serving each other creatively now. Give us energy to keep connecting individually with others and loving them like Christ loves us.

We ask that our Gospel Teams would be places of mutual love and service each week. We thank you for our Wardens and Parish Council members who continue to meet to serve us in those roles. We particularly pray this week for our Kids Ministry leaders who have now returned to serving in their roles. Give them great joy as they teach our children about Jesus and welcome them back into Kids Church on Sundays. Amen.

5. A prayer for our community

Lord of the harvest, you have told us that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few, and that we should pray to you. So today we bring our harvest field in prayer before you, asking that you would look mercifully at the people of Carlton, Bexley and Bexley North. You know each and every one of the many thousands of people who do not yet know you as their Lord. Please have mercy on them and save them. Please give us the opportunity to welcome many into our churches when the doors open again but also use us as your servants to take the Gospel out into our area as ambassadors of Christ. In the second half of this year, please have an abundant harvest in Bexley, Bexley North and Carlton, for the salvation of the lost and for the glory of your name. Amen.

6. A prayer for the Sholl Family (our CMS missionaries)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the work of the Sholl family in Latin America over the past decade. Thank you for growing the MOCLAM (Moore College in Latin America) work so that many have been able to access theological education resources in Spanish. We are also very thankful that all the work to make MOCLAM available online has been so useful given the events of this year.

Lord, now that the Sholl family are currently travelling back to Australia we pray for them in transition. Please give them safe travel and incident-free flight connections through to Sydney. Help them to patiently endure their time of isolation upon re-entry to Australia. But even more than these things Lord, please help them to adapt to this next phase of life based back in Australia. Help their final deputation visits to link churches to be encouraging for those churches and also encouraging to Pete and Sarah. Help Lucy and Miriam adjust to life in Australia and operating in English rather than Spanish as their primary language day to day. Please comfort them in their grief of leaving Monterrey.

We thank you for the partnership in the gospel we've had with the Sholl family and pray they continue to serve you faithfully and that you will continue to grow the work of MOCLAM as it transitions to the next phase. Amen.

7. A prayer for us as we live for Jesus this week

Lord, thank you that you are a God who desires mercy and not sacrifice. Thank you that we do not go into this week under the burden of religious law that we cannot keep but rather with the grace of Jesus Christ and the certain hope of salvation that comes in him. So, help us to live this week in his peace, and to love and serve one another in his name, Amen.