



### *A Family Prayer for Holy Week 2020*

*Come together as a family to mark this special week, at a time that suits all.  
For 10-15mins put aside devices and turn off the TV and create a space for prayer.  
Maybe gather round a lit candle, a cross, a bible, or sit in a circle.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

We come into the presence of God the Father, our Creator.  
We welcome his Son, Jesus, among us as an ever-present guest in our home.  
We invite the Holy Spirit, giver of life, gifts and fruits to be with us.

As this week leads us to the events of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection,  
Let us acknowledge Holy Week in our home and in our family.

Let us pray for one another that, in the days of Holy Week, we may see the value of our family bonds,  
that way may keep Christ at the centre of our thoughts and words and actions.

May our attitude towards one another be peaceful, generous, patient and kind.

May we give each other the space we need, but also make an effort to ask one another how you are feeling.

May we know and understand that each of us will cope differently during these days, and that we might react differently to things than we would normally.

Let us seek forgiveness for cross words, impatience with one another, or a lack of understanding of one another's needs in the past couple of weeks.

Let us now spend a few moments praying for each person here by name and asking God's blessing on them. *(take time to do this)*.

Now, let us include in our prayers any members of our family who are not with us because we cannot meet during these days.

*(name members of the family who are apart from you)*.

And let us not forget our friends, some of whom we see each day or at least regularly. Let us pray for them by name now and ask that God will be close to them.

Let us pray for all key workers and healthcare workers, especially among our family and friends.

Let us pray for those who are sick or in any need: those we know and those who have nobody to pray for them.

Let us pray for those who have died in recent days and weeks and for their families:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Let us ask for the prayers and protection of Mary, Our Mother, as we say: Hail Mary...

Let us pray that God's will may be done in our lives, as we say: Our Father...

For all of God's blessings to us as a family, we pray: Glory be to the Father...

*To end, all say the family prayer together*

## *Family Prayer for Holy Week*

*Lord God,  
we seek your blessing as a family  
and we thank you for the ways in which you make yourself known to us.*

*We continue to live through these days,  
days for which we were not prepared,  
days in which we are all trying our best to live peacefully together,  
in a way that nobody finds quite right.*

*You have given us families in which to grow, be nurtured and loved.  
May that purpose be central to our thoughts.  
Surprise us with opportunities to love, to care, to encourage.*

*Open to us the treasures of your word,  
For you are the God who Speaks,  
giving us new insights,  
challenging us to find you in new ways,  
and reminding us that your voice has resounded through history  
in the hearts of holy men and women.*

*We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

