

## A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew

"At that time Jesus exclaimed, I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'" (Mt 11:26-29)

The Gospel of the Lord – Thanks be to God

*If you have internet access, you can replace this Gospel reading with the relevant daily readings which are available on [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)  
(Pause for a moment of silent reflection on the Gospel)*

### Intercessions

We bring our needs and prayers before our heavenly Father.

We pray for our world at this time *(Pause for silent prayer)*

Lord grant healing and comfort to those who are afflicted by the Coronavirus.  
We pray for our health professionals, our carers, and clergy who are working with those who are sick. *(Pause)*  
Lord protect them and strengthen them as they care in your name.

We pray for our civil leaders *(Pause)*  
Lord inspire them to make wise decisions in these days.

We pray for our Scientists *(Pause)*  
Lord enlighten them as they work to understand what is happening – guide their work as they strive to find ways to treat and protect us.

We pray for those who are anxious in these days *(Pause)*  
Lord ease their fears and grant them the consolation of your presence.

We pray for those who suffer in any way at this time – the poor, the hungry, the homeless – those who suffer from persecution, war, violence – those who are depressed, lonely or sad *(Pause)*  
Lord help them in their need.

We pray for our families and friends *(by name)* – Lord protect them and look after them.

We pray for a spirit of charity among our fellow country men and women *(Pause)* Lord, at this time of national crisis, help the people of Ireland to be generous and to look out for and care for each other.

We pause to pray for our own private intentions. *(Pause to mention intentions)*  
Lord hear my prayer.

We pray for our loved ones who have died *(Pause)* Lord enfold them ever more closely in your loving embrace.

Father, we ask you to hear these our prayers and if it be your will to answer them for we make them in faith and love and trust thorough Christ our Lord, Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

As God's family we pray as Jesus himself taught us:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

*While we cannot receive communion at this time we can still make an act of Spiritual Communion in which we express our faith in Jesus and in his presence in the Eucharist and invite him to unite himself with us.*

### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,  
I believe that you  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you. (St Alphonsus de Liguori)

*(Pause for silent prayer)*

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, all praise and thanksgiving be every moment thine! X3