

Prayers for the Week

The World – This week, as we acknowledge the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, we pray for those who work to promote harmony, equality and well-being in the face of racial, or any other sort of discrimination. We pray for good relationships among athletes and spectators alike at the Commonwealth Games, the so-called ‘friendly games.’ We also pray for the work of the international chaplaincy team as they minister to people of all faiths and no faith, bringing the love of God into this sporting community.

Mission – We pray this week for our friends N & R and family. We pray that you would help them in their language study, which they find hard going, and we thank you that they were able to enjoy a short break at Easter. Also, we ask that they may soon find accommodation that is just right for them as a family. Please help them in their preparations to return home to apply for a business visa. Bless them and prosper the work that they are engaged in.

Diocese – We pray this week for the parish of Golden Bay. Thank you for the ministry of Philip and Lynda Lyes in Takaka and Collingwood. We pray for any who have been badly affected by the restricted road access over the Takaka Hill and ask that repairs may be completed as quickly as possible.

Community – We thank You for the ministry of the Church of Christ, Richmond and for Steve and Lynn Rollo and their team. We pray that you would guide and direct the work that they do, particularly among Seniors and with young people.

Our Parish – We thank You for the Easter Camp and for the encouragement it has been for our young people. We continue to pray for Joshua Allan-Johns as he balances his many responsibilities and commitments. We thank you too for Yvonne and the Seniors Ministry in our Church. Help us to see further ways in which we can reach out and provide companionship and spiritual care for older people within our community.

We continue to pray for Ian, our Priest-in-Charge, that you would uphold him and guide and direct him to see clearly what You are calling Him to in his time among us.

We also pray for Susan. Thank you for the stimulating and challenging encounters she has had so far as she walks the Camino. Please continue to watch over her and to draw her into a deeper relationship with you, Lord.

We pray for those in need. Thank you, Lord, that your continued provision for each one of us. We pray for those who are who are in special need at this time. Comfort them with your presence; give them courage and hope to persevere in whatever difficulties they face. We pray especially for Margaret Silke and others known to us. We also ask you to bless the residents and staff of the rest homes and hospitals in our parish.

An email from Susan -

31/3 Saturday night Spanish time -

Had a great week in Bankstown, Sydney. When I told the cab driver at the airport that's where I wanted to go, he clearly disapproved. I loved the place. There were many more people of different cultures than we'd ever see in Nelson. Kevin did really well with his golf and we enjoyed eating out at some of the eight different restaurants in our hotel complex. I'd hate to live that kind of a lifestyle permanently but fun for a week. I found it very hard to say goodbye to Kevin at the airport.

The 6 days I had with my cousin in the UK were brilliant. I walked quite a bit. We talked a lot especially about the Lord and his church.

Now I'm on Los Arcos after 6 days walking the Camino. I've walked about 115 kms. I've met amazing people especially young people. I've been drinking with the Irish, discussing the meaning of life with Germans, and talking about Protestantism with Americans. I watched an Easter parade on Friday night that was pretty freaky. I've made great connections and been invited to join a camino group on whatsapp.

Every day I've been endeavouring to trust God for provision and human connection. Of course God is faithful. I've been blown away by the spiritual hunger I see and hugely challenged as I realise that almost all of the folk who are hungry to know about their place in life would never, ever darken the doors of a church. I've been learning from them as they talk about what they understand of God; an understanding that is much broader than mine.

And I have encountered God in these folk and in unexpected places like huge wind propellers. I plan to catch the bus Sunday (my tomorrow) and maybe every Sunday, to give my feet a rest. I have nothing to prove to anyone including myself.

I appreciate so much your prayers. I wear a hat that Julia Murbach knitted and perfume that Valerie McNaughton bought - when I need to feel like a girl. I weave wool around my toes that Ursula Brown bought. I use plasters and sanitizer from David and Barbara Spokes. I carry blessings from so many of you. Someone asked if I miss my job. The answer is that I don't. But I think of you all often and pray for you whenever you come to mind.

The Camino is simple but not easy. The basics of life are everything. On the very first day someone gave me some bread and it was a sacrament.

I'm writing this on my phone so language may be not quite right but I hope you get a sense of the holy community I'm experiencing. And I know you and Ian will be having God times together too. learning together in love,

Susan

Stop Press!! - There will be a screening of the movie "The Way" at 7.00pm Friday 20 April in the Church. It is a depiction of the route Susan is taking to Cape Finisterre and all are very welcome to attend. Further details to follow - Cecile Strang.

Movie Night - 6.30pm Monday 9 April at the Suter Cinema to see Paul: Apostle of Christ. Tickets \$12.00. The Story covers Paul, portrayed by James Faulkner, going from the most infamous persecutor of Christians to Jesus Christ's most influential apostle. The signup sheet is now at the back of the church, you need to pay now and collect your ticket. There is still space for more to attend. Yvonne.