

Pastoral Prayer  
August 29, 2021

Holy and almighty God,

We pray with grief for those who grieve in a world filled with death. We pray because of those lost in Afghanistan, those who died in the airport bombing and those who have been casualties of these twenty years of war, most of them, inevitably, ordinary people struggling to live their lives as war and violence rolled over them again and again. We pray for those who mourn in other war-torn places in the world such as Mexico, Sudan, and Yemen. We pray for those who have lost loved ones to storms and natural disasters, and we pray for those in the path of Hurricane Ida. We pray for those in tears at the death of someone, or several someones, who have died from COVID-19.

Hold those who mourn in your embrace, O God, and comfort them with your presence, your love, and your tears.

Give to us the strength to bear the burdens of these days. They are many and they are great, O God, and without your aid we are not sure that we can endure. May we be wise enough to lay down what we do not need to carry. May we be generous enough to assist others. May we be humble enough to ask for help of others and of you when we need it. May we be gracious enough to give our thanks and praise to you and to those who help us through this time.

We pray for the children in our schools, O God, especially those too young to be vaccinated. May the precautions taken be effective. May your grace extend their protection beyond our hopes. And if the virus spreads, lend strength to the healing powers of youthful bodies and of their families' bodies to survive and recover.

May we be held firmly in your grace, O God, inspired by your peace, comforted by your love, and guided by your wisdom. Speed the healing of our ills and quicken the insights of our minds. Bless us so that we can bless others, those near and those far away.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying...

Amen.