



## Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

### Apostolic Administrator

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May 15, 2020  
20/200

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Included with this email is the prayer of entrustment of Australia in these times to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under the title of Mary Help of Christians, seeking her intercession for the safety of all people, especially in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This action and this prayer was approved by the Australian Bishops at their Conference this week.

The Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians is normally the 24th May but because that is a Sunday in Eastertide, this year it is transferred to Monday 25th.

At the conclusion of the Mass of Instalment in St Francis Xavier Cathedral on Monday 25th, the new Archbishop of Adelaide, Most Rev Patrick O'Regan DD will read this prayer of entrustment of the Archdiocese to Immaculate Mary Help of Christians. Parish priests may wish to pray the same prayer at their private or online Masses on the same day.

Restrictions may have been eased to a small degree by then and some people may be able to be present, we pray. We must await further government directions. In any case the priest in his parish can recite the prayer of entrustment on behalf of all, for the sake of the people of Australia.

(You will note the use of the word “entrustment” rather than “consecration”. This reflects a theological discussion. God is the only being to whom one might be consecrated – as in consecrated religious, consecrated churches. In his later years Pope Saint John Paul II began to use the word “entrustment” in place of consecration, a practice followed largely by his successors. We consecrate ourselves to God, and entrust ourselves to Our Lady).

One of the first acts of the first official gathering of Bishops in Australia in 1844 was to declare Mary Help of Christians the patroness of Australia, hence this entrustment is a repeat of that act.

***Prayer of Entrustment of Australia  
to  
Immaculate Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians***

*O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of Heaven and Earth,  
and tender Mother of humanity,  
at this time when a pandemic threatens all of your children,  
we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country.  
We commit to your intercession all the members of our community,  
beginning with the weakest ones, from unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly.  
We commit to you our families, our young and old,  
and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious.  
We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment,  
our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time.  
We implore your intercession especially for the protection of nurses and doctors  
and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis.*

*Reign over us Mother of God and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign in triumph in us  
and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!*

*Amen*

Yours in Christ,



+ Gregory O'Kelly SJ  
**Apostolic Administrator**