Nations in crisis:

Prayer Vigil for Myanmar and India







Leading the Vigil is:

Fr Tony Moreno SJ, President of Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific (JCAP) Niang Mun Ciin (Mun Pi), Myanmar Jesuit Mission Gillian Donoghue, Myanmar Jesuit Mission Fr Santosh Minj SJ, Provincial of Hazaribag Fr Jun Viray SJ, Provincial of the Philippines Sch. P.V. Joseph Buan Sing SJ, Burmese scholastic in Rome Fr Quyen Vu SJ, Provincial of Australia Sr Britto Madassery SCSC, Snehadeep Holy Cross Residential School, India Anna O'Halloran, Chair, Jesuit Mission Maytime Fair Committee Fr Stany D'Souza SJ, President of Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) Helen Forde, Jesuit Mission

Welcome – Helen Forde

Preparation for prayer – Fr Tony Moreno SJ

Leader: O God come to our aid. (with Sign of the Cross) All: O Lord make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son And to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen

Psalm 34 – Niang Mun Ciin (Mun Pi) and Gillian Donoghue

I will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; Let the humble hear and be glad.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together! I sought the Lord and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

O fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no want!

The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Pope Francis on the Covid pandemic and message to the people of India – Fr Santosh Minj SJ

For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our street and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost.

At this time when so many in India are suffering as a result of the present health emergency, I am writing to convey my heartfelt solidarity and spiritual closeness to all the Indian people, together with the assurance of my prayers that God will grant healing and consolation to everyone affected by this grave pandemic.

(1 – Moment of prayer: St Peter's Basilica 27th March, 2020. 2 – Message to the Archbishop of Bombay 6th May, 2021.)

Reading – Fr Jun Viray SJ

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

(4: 6-9)

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Music – The Lord is My Shepherd

Homily of Pope Francis at Mass with the Myanmar community in Rome – Sch. P.V. Joseph Buan Sing SJ

Keep the faith... To keep the faith is to refuse to yield to the logic of hatred and vengeance, but to keep our gaze fixed on the God of love, who calls us to be brothers and sisters to one another.

To keep unity... Each of you can make an effort to be, in little things, a builder of fraternity, a sower of fraternity, someone who works to rebuild what is broken rather than fomenting violence.

To keep the truth... To keep the truth means to be a prophet in every situation in life, in other words to be consecrated to the Gospel and bear witness to it even when that means going against the current.

(Homily at Mass with the Myanmar community in Rome. 16th May, 2021)

Gospel – Fr Quyen Vu SJ

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Music - Gabriel's Oboe

Intercessions – Sr Britto Madassery SCSC & Anna O'Halloran

Leader: Trusting in Jesus the Good Shephard who accompanies the flock in whatever troubles they may face, let us offer our prayers to God.

We pray for those countries suffering with high Covid-19 infection rates – particularly India. Jesus the Good Shepherd, may you be a source of strength, healing and hope to all who are affected. Lord hear us. **Lord, hear our payer.**

We pray for those countries with political unrest, violence or unjust systems – particularly Myanmar. Jesus the Good Shepherd, may you inspire dialogue, peace and just outcomes for the common good of all. Lord hear us. **Lord, hear our payer.**

We pray for doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and all those who work in healthcare institutions. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be their inspiration as they care and work to heal those suffering from this pandemic. Lord hear us. **Lord, hear our payer.**

We pray for the leaders of government – particularly those whose countries have power and influence. May they be inspired by the commandment to "love thy neighbour" to ensure an equitable distribution of vaccines across the human family. Lord hear us. Lord, hear our payer.

We pray for peace in the world. May the peace of the Risen Jesus be in those countries, communities and families who are experiencing division or anxiety. Lord hear us. Lord, hear our payer.

We pray for those who have died – particularly those who have died from Covid-19. May they know the loving embrace of God and may their loved ones know this consolation in their lives. Lord hear us. **Lord, hear our payer.**

For the prayers we now make in the silence of our hearts. Lord hear us. Lord, hear our payer.

Leader: Lord God, hear these prayers we offer to you in trust and confidence this day.

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.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Our Lady of the Way	Pray for us
St Ignatius Loyola	Pray for us
St Francis Xavier	Pray for us
St Aloysius Gonzaga	Pray for us

Blessing

Song: "Who did you see along the way?" - Chris Willcock SJ

Refrain: Who, who did you say along the way? Who, who did you see? Who, who did you say along the way? Who, who did you see?

We sort of child, sheltered from the burning sand, in flight from a King, adrift from home. He seemed like one of us. **Refrain.**

We saw a man, prone beneath an olive tree, with death in his eyes, estranged from home. He seemed like one of us. **Refrain.**

We saw a woman, reaching for her dying son, held back by police, no hard for home. She seemed like one of us. **Refrain.**

We saw a crowd, robed in white before the lamb, their journey now done, at last at home. They seem to call to us. **Refrain.**

What, what did you do along the way? What, what did you do?

We walked and walked, walked with woman, man and child. Together we walk, and head for home, and Christ is one of us, and Christ is one of us.

Thank you to Jeremy Curtin and his students from St Aloysius College Choir in Sydney for sharing their beautiful voices and singing Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd and Who Did You See?

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Psalm 23: The Lord is My Shepherd

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Who Did You See?

Text: Andrew Hamilton SJ Music: Christopher Willcock SJ 2005. OCP Portland.