

## Thought for the day – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022

By Jill Howard-Gunasekera

### Prayers for the world – Good Friday Prayers

Heavenly Father, we remember today your softheartedness towards us. We remember your son, placed in our hands.

We remember all his acts of love, his healing of many who were sick, his words of mercy to those living in guilt, fear and shame; his kindnesses to those on the margins, his understanding of the evils that oppress and we remember the words he said to us:

‘I give you a new commandment: Love one another, just as I have loved you, so also must you love one another.’

A love he demonstrated even to His death on a cross.

We dream of a world in which leaders would issue a command like this to stadiums filled with their citizens

In the shadow of the great love of the cross, we also come together as followers of Christ to remember and be sorry for, the persistent evils in world:

The violence of greed

The violence of racism

The violence of war and rape

The violence of unwelcome and ingratitude

The violence of cruelty to other species that share this world

The violence of disregard, for our planet’s natural systems of support that sustain us.

The violence of disregard, for all your gifts father God, each one of us precious in your sight.

In the shadow of the great love of the cross, we are sorry Father God.

And so we pray for the nations of the world and their leaders (think of a nation or situation that you want to bring before God);

For our land, our Queen and the Parliament of this Land  
for those who administer the law and all who serve in public office,

for all who strive for justice and reconciliation  
that by God's help the world may become more soft hearted and allow lives to  
be lived in peace and freedom.

We pray for all those persecuted for their faith that they may know your hope,  
encouragement and the strength of the love of the cross.

Strengthen us today by your Spirit Father God, to share the knowledge and  
experience of your love that we have, with others. Let us not lock it away out  
of reach from a world in need.

Let us not be afraid to speak of Christ's love that is stronger than death and  
more enduring than evil.

Merciful God

Creator of all the people of the earth

give us compassion on all those who do not know you

that by our sharing of your gospel of grace and softhearted power

you may gather them into your Kingdom as the gentle shepherd gathers his  
sheep.

Through Christ our Lord.

Finally shall we say together, (if you can just repeat the words after me):

Let's say together,

Let there be more justice,

Let there be more mercy

Let there be more compassion

and love

and caring

and sharing.

Amen

