

## PRAYERS BEFORE A FLU OR OTHER PANDEMIC

Lord, we don't know what's going to happen,  
help us to prepare for the worst,  
so that we in your church  
in this place and time  
may know

where it must be,  
what it must do,  
and how to do it,  
in difficult, as well as good times.

Help us to care for one another  
in this community and this congregation  
as you would have us do,  
so that our serving  
may speak of your continuing presence.

May we pray and plan  
with care and commitment  
so that our actions speak  
louder than our words,  
of our practical support to those in need.

Send your Holy Spirit

to guide and inspire  
our planning and our actions;

grant us insight and vision,  
courage and determination,  
patience and perseverance,  
as we take our strength and wisdom from you.  
the source and purpose  
of all life and all love,  
all hope and all fulfilment.

AMEN

## PRAYERS DURING A PANDEMIC

Lord, we didn't know it could be this bad.  
We planned and prayed and tried to prepare.

*Silence*

Now we face pressures and needs  
All around us and here, in our hearts and homes.

*Silence*

We bring before you  
all those affected  
and those at risk,  
our families and friends,  
our colleagues in church,  
at work or in the community,  
the organisations affected everywhere,

and we remember those  
who are most vulnerable and most afraid,  
here and across the world.

*Lord in your mercy*  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord, give us the energy and inspiration  
to provide them with support and encouragement,  
through phone calls or visits,  
as 'flu friends'  
and companions on their journey.

*Lord in your mercy,*  
**Hear our prayer**

Make us careful not to make things worse,  
spreading the virus by our thoughtlessness,  
even as we reach out to help.

*Lord in your mercy,*  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we remember before you

all those who are working and helping,  
all those who are afraid,  
all those who've died,  
all those who are bereaved,  
all those in hospital,  
and ourselves,  
as try to face this challenge and tragedy  
with courage and care.

Amen

Lord, teach us again what really matters,  
so that, during and after this terrible time,  
we may find new ways of  
being your people,  
serving your community,

and  
along with others,

helping to heal all that is sick and hurt,  
transforming all that is unjust,  
encouraging others,  
as well as ourselves,  
with thoughts and actions  
which bring new hope.

We ask this in the name of the One  
who lived and died among us,  
and in his wounded, crucified body,  
rose again to new life.

**AMEN**

Canon Robin Morrison  
Bishops' Adviser on Church and Society