Dear friends:

As we make to yet another Friday in this confusing time when the days seem to flow together, I am encouraged to hear so many heart-warming stories of interactions between teachers and their at-a-distance classes. Although we may resist change especially if it is thrust upon us, we seem to be pulling together as a community to make good things happen.

Although I’m told that tonight’s forecast holds the possibility of snow flurries, I find hope in the little, bright green shoots in my garden which are stubbornly standing tall in their endeavour to bring some colour into our world. They are a strong symbol for us and remind us of why the liturgical colour for Ordinary Time, standing for Hope, is green!

The Sunday which is the Octave (eighth day) of Easter is traditionally Divine Mercy Sunday.

**Divine Mercy**

The Divine Mercy is a devotion associated with the apparitions of Jesus to Faustina Kowalska, who refers to "God’s loving mercy" toward all people.

"As often as you hear the clock strike the third hour, immerse yourself completely in My mercy, adoring and glorifying it, invoke its omnipotence for the whole world, and particularly for poor sinners, for at that moment mercy was opened wide for every soul."

In these days of uncertainty, trust in Divine Mercy and turn to the person of Christ. Know that there is grace and mercy waiting. And find peace in that.
Prayers
The unique prayers mentioned above are:

First opening prayer
This prayer is optional, and may be used to begin the Chaplet:

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

Second opening prayer
This prayer, repeated three times in succession, is also optional, and may be used along with the first opening prayer to begin the Chaplet:

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

Eternal Father
This prayer opens each decade of the Chaplet:

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion
This prayer, repeated 10 times in succession, forms the body of each decade of the Chaplet:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Holy God
This prayer, repeated three times in succession, concludes the Chaplet:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Closing prayer
This prayer is optional, and may be used after the Holy God to end the Chaplet:

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

- The Holy God on the medallion;
- The optional closing prayer, still on the medallion;
- Any further intentions; and
- The sign of the cross.

This chaplet can be prayed at other times also.

You can access daily readings, intentions and prayers for the Canadian Church at: https://www.livingwithchrist.ca/index.php/intentions Sunday’s readings are at:

https://www.livingwithchrist.ca/images/article_images/pdf/April_19_Pages_from_LWC_April2020-lowres-6.pdf

Also check out: https://www.livingwithchrist.ca/index.php/tools-for-schools for home and school resources!
From the Twitter account of Father Cornelius O'Mahony, our Episcopal Vicar for Education

Looking for the right words to say in prayer during these days? Here is a beautiful prayer from the foodgrainsbank.ca website. There are many other beautiful prayers, graces and worship activities on this site at https://foodgrainsbank.ca/product-category/worship-activities/

A Prayer
May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the luxury to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.
- "Prayer for a Pandemic" by Cameron Bellm

With every good wish for your weekend.

Gillian