

Promoting Catholic Identity in Remote Spaces

A Prayer for Secondary Students

Adapted from a prayer by Dr. Murray Watson

God of compassion,

We are returning to school with very mixed feelings. We are disappointed – perhaps even angry – about all the lost opportunities and the things we have had to give up due to the pandemic. We are frustrated by the restrictions on our movements, the safety precautions we must take, and the changes to our school routines.

The news we hear each day can fill us with uncertainty and concern and we worry about how this year will unfold. We may be concerned about the risks to people whom we care about and about the economic constraints our families may be experiencing.

The coronavirus in our world continues to raise questions without easy answers, and we wonder what the effects will be on our lives, our education and our future. And yet, in the midst of worry and stress, you call us to love one another, to pray for each other, and to trust that you are always with us in our struggles.

Give your healing to those who are sick, quarantined and fearful, and your gentle compassion to those who are caring for them. Teach us to support one another, to listen to each other, and to resist the temptations of isolation, prejudice and selfishness.

Remind us that the choices we make to resist recommended health and safety protocols may have devastating results for others. May these challenging times help us to rely on your loving care, to remember the global family of which we are part.

Guide us through this challenging time, for you are our Healer, O Lord, and we trust in your promises. Help us to remember that you are with us at all times, even when we do not notice you.

We ask all of this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

