**Good Friday 2021 Ecumenical Taizé Prayer
7pm St Mary’s Pro Cathedral**

**Opening Song:**Bless the Lord my soul, and bless God’s holy name,
bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life.

Opening Reflection: Archbishop Farrell

Christ Jesus, Saviour of every life,
You take our burdens upon yourself.

You suffer with all who bear the cross of suffering
in whatever form it takes.
So that, with you,
we can move forward:
from worry and anxiety to trust,
from darkness to light.

With you accompanying us,
even what pains our heart,
even our own darkness
can be made bright
by the inner light of the Holy Spirit.

You stretched out your arms on the cross
and reconciled us to one another and to the Father.
You brought God and humanity together in your body.
Wrap your arms around our broken lives
and restore us to the harmony that exists in you.

Scripture: Archbishop Jackson

**Luke 23: 39-40a, 41-43**One of the criminals who were hanged there
kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah?
Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him,
saying, "Do you not fear God?
We indeed have been condemned justly,
for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds,
but this man has done nothing wrong."
Then he said, "Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom."
He replied, "Truly I tell you,
today you will be with me in Paradise."

**Song:
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

Scripture: Archbishop Farrell:
**Luke 23: 44- 46**It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands
I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

**Song: Into your hands O Father, I commend my spirit
 Into your hands O Father, I commend my spirit.**

Reflection:

Christ Jesus, you experienced being forsaken,
and you have gone through darkness as we do.
And so you brought God’s love
to places where violence and hatred
seemed to occupy all the ground.
Praise be to you!
With you nothing can separate us any more from God.

**Song:** Nothing can ever come between us and the love of God,
the love of God revealed to us in Christ Jesus.

Verse 1: When I am afraid Lord, I put my trust in you. In you I trust I shall not fear.
2: This is know that God is on my side, in God I trust I shall not fear.
3: It is Christ who died, Christ who rose again. At the right hand of God he pleads for us
4: Neither death nor life, nothing still to come can ever come between us and God’s love.

Intercessions: Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison, Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison!
For those suffering violence and oppression,
for those lacking the very basics of human living: we pray to you O Lord. *R.*

For the sick and the dying and those who give themselves in care for them:
we pray to you O Lord. *R.*

For Christians everywhere, that we may shine forth peace and hope in all the world:
we pray to you O Lord. *R.*

That the dignity of every person may be respected,
that everyone may sing of your kindness: we pray to you O Lord. *R.*

That by your mercy those who have died
may know the fullness of joy in your presence: we pray to you O Lord. *R.*

Reflection:
Jesus, hope of our hearts,
when we realize that your love is above all forgiveness,
something in us is soothed and even transformed.
And when Love goes to the point of forgiving,
the heart, even when beset by trials, begins to live anew.
You open for us the road that leads upward
towards a peace-filled joy.

**Song:** God is forgiveness, dare to forgive and God will be with you
 God is forgiveness, love and do not fear.

Reflection: Archbishop Jackson
Strengthen us, Eternal God,
and we will wait in silence and peace
until the light of the Resurrection rises upon us.
You kindle a flame of living love
that remains within us, still alive under the ashes.
And through you, even the fears and nightime of our heart
can become the dawn of new life.

**Song:** Jesus, your spirit in us is a wellspring of life everlasting.

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