**Agape from Epiphany to Lent 2021**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also, with you.**

**OPENING RESPONSES**

Lord we are living in unfamiliar times and worshiping in unfamiliar ways,

yet we still gather as your family.
**Not because we have to, but because we want to.**We are here to offer you our worship, our praise and our prayers
**We offer our lives in service to you and to our neighbour.**
We have as our example your Son who chose not to rule but to serve
**Who gave us a love so strong that it flowed like a river from his hands and his heart.**

We now find ourselves on yet a different road, with new fears and worries gathered in different places, in need of reassurance and guidance.

**We long to find comfort in the One who has come for us, as we remain apart from those we love so much**

**CALL TO RECONCILLIATION**

We find it so easy to walk down the familiar roads of foolishness, and forgetfulness.

Turning our backs on those God would have us love and ignoring the map God gives us to navigate our lives. As we speak of our choices, let us open our hearts to the One who offers us the hope and grace we seek, even if we don’t realize it.

**PRAYER OF CONFFESION**

Father, we come here today conscious of our shortcomings
aware of the thoughts, actions and deeds
which have not reflected your love
**Lord of Love have mercy on us**
Father, our lives are filled with comings and goings
so little time to be still, so little time for others
for giving instead of receiving

**Lord of Life have mercy on us**

Father, in a world that needs to know your love forgive us those times when impatience, tiredness, selfishness or insensitivity have made it difficult
for others to see your love through our lives
**Servant of all have mercy on us**

In a moment of silence

we bring to our Heavenly Father the needs of our friends and families;

the tensions, the harsh words spoken in haste,

the good deed not done, the love not shown.
(Silence)
We also remember the needs of the Church family, both here and world-wide
(Silence)

**God of family, God of Love, forgive us for those times when we have forgotten how much we are loved by you, and how important a part we play in your family. Forgive us when we take family for granted.**

**ABSOLUTION**

The Lord enrich you with his grace,

and nourish you with his blessing;

the Lord defend youin trouble and keep you from all evil;

the Lord accept yourprayers,

and absolve you from youroffences,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

**THE COLLECT –**

**READINGS -***after each reading*

 This is word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle- Saviour of the World**

**Jesus, Saviour of the world, come to us in your mercy:**

By your cross and your life laid down, you set your people free:

we look to you to save and help us.

**When they were ready to perish, you saved your disciples:**

**we look to you to come to our help.**

In the greatness of your mercy, loose us from our chains,

forgive the sins of all your people.

**Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty deliverer;**

**save and help us that we may praise you.**

Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus: hear our prayer and be with us always.

**And when you come in your glory:**

make us to be one with you

    and to share the life of your kingdom.

**Jesus, Saviour of the world, come to us in your mercy:**

**GOSPEL**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son*.*

**Alleluia**

or

Open our eyes, O Lord, that we may consider
the wonders of your law.

**Alleluia.**

**SERMON.**

**Time for reflection**

**CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God, begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father, through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

Lord in your Mercy

**Hear our prayer**

 Merciful Father:

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**THE PEACE**

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.

As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Or

God has called us to live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

 *(We will be unmuted to share the peace of Christ with each other so please wave and join in}*

**THE AGAPE MEAL OF THANKSGIVING**

The hands of God are engraved with our names.

The heart of God holds us in an unbreakable embrace

The compassion of God frees us from the power of hatred, selfishness and death. **We thank You, God of Love, that you never abandon or neglect us.**

In our moments of rebellion, God is patient.

In our quest for independence, God is faithful

In our ignorance and pride, God is kind and gentle

**We thank You, God of Love, that You continually seek and save the lost**

We are all invited to a common table to share in an Agape Feast.

We come as brothers and sisters in the Holy Family of God.

We come so that we may give thanks Lord that you blessed our lives

with your promise to be with us always.

We come to share symbols that remind us of your love for us in that promise.

A candle, to remind us of the way, “I am the light of the world;

those who follow me will not walk-in darkness but will have the light of life”.

**Blessed be God forever**

Food to remind us that, you provide enough for everyone: this earth is fertile, fruitful and abundant, but we are sometimes greedy, wasteful and selfish. Many go hungry despite our plenty, many are left outside while we enjoy a feast. But on the hillside, in the wilderness, with five thousand and more hungry people, Jesus took the bread that they had, broke it and gave thanks to you. He shared the bread, and the fish so that no one should be left out, and they all ate and were satisfied.

**Blessed be God forever**

Drink to remind us that you refresh cleanse and restore our lives. Guide us to use your water wisely and well, ensuring that all your creation can share in your bounty.

You long for our healing and wholeness, yet we so often turn away from you. But at a wedding in Cana when the wine ran out, Jesus asked them to fill the empty jars with water, and by your grace, water became wine, sadness was turned to joy, and all were able to share in the best wine of all.

**Blessed be God forever!**

Let us pray, God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.

We have shared your peace and given thanks that our lives depend on you.

Separated but in solidarity and agape we now share the ordinary fruits of the earth

Our symbols of all you have given us, food, and drink for our nourishment.

**Blessed be God forever!**

**We welcome your presence with us, sustain our bodies, hearts, and spirit.**

**We live in the light of your presence, at all times and in all places. Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray in the words you gave us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;**

**deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**WASHING OF HANDS**

*Wash your hands or use sanitiser gel:*

**Wash me, O Lord, and cleanse me from my sin.”**

**THE FOOD AND DRINK ARE CONSUMMED**

 **As we eat and drink may our souls be refreshed.**

**Music is played**

**PRAYER AFTER AGAPE**

God of our salvation, you have restored us to life, brought us back again into your love.

Continue to heal us, so we live in the power of your Spirit, to your praise and glory.

With gratefulness for all that we have been blessed with,

**let us look ahead to our lives beyond this week and this place**,

**With gratefulness to each other for all that we have shared.**

**With thankfulness to God let us now begin to look outwards and ahead**

**Let our lives beyond this week and this place so we may reflect Gods love in this world.**

**CLOSING RESPONSES**

O God of life, of all life and of each life,
**We lay our lives before you;**
We give our lives to you.
**From whom nothing in us is hidden.**

You are before us, God, you are behind.
**You are around us, God, you are within.**

O God of life, O generous Spirit,
**Renew us with your life today, tomorrow, and always. Amen**

**NOTICES**

**THE BLESSING**

The love of Christ draw you to himself,

the power of Christ strengthen you in his service,

the joy of Christ fill your hearts.

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you now and always.

**Amen**.

*We will ‘un-mute’ now*

**THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ Amen .**