**Prayers for use in the wake of the murders at the Masjid Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Avenue Islamic Centre in Christchurch, March 15th 2019.**

Response to each prayer – We pray for peace.

For people grieving the loss of wife or husband, mother or father, daughter or son, sister or brother, grandparent or cousin, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew – that there will be compassion and support for them and that this compassion will bring consolation… *we pray for peace.*

For people grieving the loss of friends and community members – that the kindness of neighbours relieves the ache of grief…

For the Muslim community in Aotearoa New Zealand – that they continue to pray in mosques and that they will be in complete safety…

For people wounded, whose future is now uncertain – that our government be generous in their support.

For those who have died – that they be at peace in the eternal kingdom…

For people who are afraid – that they are emboldened to live upright lives of justice, peace and prayer.

For the people of Christchurch - that this new pain in their midst will deepen their resolve to welcome strangers and live in peace, seeking good for all people…

For all religious and faith communities throughout Aotearoa New Zealand – that they see beyond difference, to the unity that the human heart is made for…

For all religious and faith communities throughout Aotearoa New Zealand – that they find ways to walk in solidarity with the Muslim community…

For the people of Aotearoa New Zealand – that cheap talk not diminish the enormity of this tragedy…

For the people of Aotearoa New Zealand – that we work together to support the wounded and the grieving…

For the people of Aotearoa New Zealand – that as a nation, we work as one to bring forth good from this tragedy…

For the Prime Minister of Aotearoa New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern – that she be strengthened as leader and continue to find ways to speak and act with integrity, insight and compassion…

For all people throughout the world – that grief and anger do not lead to violence, but to consolation and a yearning for peace…

For leaders of nations – that they not be content with discrimination and injustice but work creatively together to find new and deeper expressions of peace, tolerance, respect, harmony and goodwill.

For the Pompallier Diocesan Centre – that we learn to hold the pain of this massacre, walk with the wounded and find ways to show solidarity with them…

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In February this year Pope Francis and the Grand Imama of Al-Azhar, Ahmad el-Tayeb met together. The two religious leaders have asked all people ‘to rediscover and spread ‘the values of peace, justice, goodness, beauty, human fraternity and coexistence.’ They go on to say they believe ‘that among the most important causes of the crises of the modern world are a desensitized human conscience, a distancing from religious values and a prevailing individualism accompanied by materialistic philosophies.’ (See document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and living together.)

New Zealand has changed. It will never be the same nation it was at 9am on Friday the 15th of March 2019. Let us pray that it changes us for the better. In the wake of this tragedy, let us pray for a resensitizing of the human conscience, a resurgence of religious values, a deepening appreciation of the bonds of community and a renewed understanding of the limited value of material possessions and wealth.

Let us go to walk in peace. Amen.