**Intercession, St Jude’s Day, 2021**

Creator of all,

Today is the day we celebrate the life of St Jude, for whom this church is named.

We look to St Jude as the saint of lost causes, of impossible dreams and insurmountable challenges.

We think of the things that seem impossible to us and ask for your strength in lifting ourselves to meet those challenges and in persisting when everything seems too hard.

We pray for the earth. Help us to care for the plants and animals that come into our lives.

We pray for the people who are able to make the big decisions that will change the health of our land and skies and seas. We ask that you give them the wisdom and courage to make decisions that will create a place where rich life can be sustained for all creatures.

Spirit of creation and renewal, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of peace,

Peace in our world seems like an impossible dream. One victory over war and destruction gives way to another conflict in which people die and suffer at each other’s hands.

Awaken in us all the spirit of love which your son taught and showed us.

God of love, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray today for all those who live and work in this community, for our families and friends and for ourselves, so that we can love each other whole-heartedly.

We are blessed by so many people in our parish and in our community who enrich our worship and the life of the parish through their industry and creativity, through their music, through their service to the vulnerable in our community. We thank you for those who care for the fabric, the interior and environment of our church. We thank you for those who contribute to the services and the liturgy.

We give thanks for every word of welcome, every act of generosity, every work of service given in faith and the joy of striving to do your purpose.

For all those people who work quietly, who don’t seek reward or thanks, who put other people’s needs before their own we are deeply and humbly grateful.

God of love, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Great comforter and redeemer,

***Give comfort and peace to those who are separated from loved ones, in death or in life. B e with those who are suffering sickness in body or mind. May the ache in our hearts be the strengthening of our hearts. Teach us to embrace our sadness lest it turn into despair. Transform out yearning into wisdom. Let our hearts grow stronger.***

We remember with thanks those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those who are known to you alone. Help us to live lives that honour their memory and know that nothing can separate us from your love.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers,

**Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive, in Jesus’ name,**

**Amen**

I acknowledge the writing of Michael Leunig in the bolded and italicized paragraph above. The words, slightly changed, come from his book - “A common prayer”.