

## **Prayer for Protection Against Bushfires**

Loving Lord,

We pray to you for protection during this time of crisis and danger as unprecedented bushfires are ravaging our regions.

We pray for all our communities and individuals who have been affected by the ferocious bushfires.

- For those who have died, that they may have eternal rest.
- For those who are still missing and unaccounted for: that they may be found safe and well.
- For those who have lost homes, livestock and domestic pets: that they may experience the care and practical assistance of their communities and support services, as they face the trauma of loss and grief and begin to rebuild their lives.
- For those who have evacuated their communities: that they may reach a place of safety.

Particularly, we remember at this time the affected communities in our Diocese of Sale: the communities of East Gippsland.

We give thanks for those who are so courageously fighting the bushfires, for emergency service members and the Australian Navy: may they may be protected and kept safe from harm.

We give thanks for all those who have so willingly volunteered to assist in the relief effort, local community helpers, and those across the nation who have donated food supplies, money and animal fodder.

Our prayers are with those who are facing an uncertain summer, with the double crisis of drought and wildfires, particularly our farmers.

Protect us, Lord we pray, and keep us free from fearfulness, anxiety and harm.

May we all work together to alleviate the suffering and distress of those affected by fire and drought by our practical assistance and care.

Lord, we pray for drenching rain and relief from soaring temperatures. May we experience your loving consolation in this time of crisis.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

