***Hazelwood closure prayers***

We thank you for all the years that Hazelwood has powered Victoria
with electricity and skills and jobs.
We thank you for the strong community that has grown here,
and for the families, clubs, societies and businesses that flourished
with the power station on the skyline.
Bless this community through the challenges of change.
Make our families strong and resilient.
Make us good neighbours to each other in hard times.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people who are losing their jobs in this closure.
Come to them with new hope and new opportunities.
We pray for new initiatives, new businesses, new industries in our region
that will support local households, feed local people
and help local community to flourish.
Show us what we can do with prayer, care and skill
to be part of the changes for good.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the shutdown, cleanup and rehabilitation
of the power station and the mine.
We pray for new health for the Valley and its people.
Give wisdom to the decision-makers and planners
who will reshape our landscape in the years ahead.
Teach all of us how to care for the earth and its creatures,
and how to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the future of power generation in Australia,
Inspire the inventors, engineers and designers
who will develop the new technologies and new jobs that we need.
We pray for world-wide courage
to tackle the problems of pollution and climate change.
We pray for justice in sharing the resources you have given us,
both in Australia and beyond.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
when you died and rose again
you showed us that death is not the end.
You promise that even a painful and sorrowful ending
may be followed by good and glorious things
that we had never dreamed of or expected.
In this time of uncertainty and grief,
keep us company in the Valley as we take our next steps.
Fire us up with your powerful Spirit
and keep us growing in faith and hope and love. **Amen.**