

Prayers of Intercession for Candlemas

Lord, with the Feast of Candlemas we reach the end of the beginning of your great story that has no ending, and now begin to turn our faces towards Lent, and the time of reflection that follows from it. Help us with the passing of time to grow in wisdom and simplicity, like Simeon and Anna, through listening attentively to your word. As we seek to be faithful followers of the essence of your message, may the whole Church submit to the fire that refines and purifies as it turns back to the single truth that you were made man in Palestine, and live today by the breath of the Holy Spirit. Lord, on this feast of meeting may we receive you afresh into our lives in all your glory. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, you have sent us a light to enlighten the nations, and yet still there are people who dwell in darkness. We pray for all the darkness in this world, and for those places where conflict makes it almost impossible to live in love with neighbours, even though without such love, there seems no peaceful end in sight. We hold before the places and situations which come to mind... Deliver your people from every evil, we pray.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, as we reflect on the characters in this morning's Gospel, help us to play our part in reaching out across the generation gap that can so easily divide us. Teach the old to learn from the enthusiasm of the young, and their ability to see new flowers in the garden of life. And teach the young that the old, too, may have something to teach them, the ability to see things from a less rushed perspective, when the fever of doing gives way to the peace of simply being.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, as we continue to live through the coronavirus pandemic look with compassion on all who are afraid and those who feel inadequate and overwhelmed in the face of the demands of lockdown...

Touch with your healing power all who are sick, including Albin Wallace, Pam Sykes, Thelma Mallows, and Myrtle Seary... grant them peace amidst pain, confidence in your wisdom, and the ability to draw strength from the knowledge that underneath are your everlasting arms.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In a week when we have acknowledged the devastating death toll from the coronavirus in our own country and remembered all those who died in the holocaust, we pray for each and every life of those who have died and for all who mourn. We recall those known to us who have died

remembering especially the family of Rodney O'Rorke whose funeral took place last Monday, Elspeth Boulton and her family as her funeral takes place this coming Friday. May those who in life have encouraged us by their light now know the fullness of your presence. May they know the peace of Simeon of a life well-led, and fulfillment as they are presented to you and enfolded in your loving arms.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, accept our prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen