

Prayers for Sunday 2nd May 2021

Father we pray for stillness as we bring our prayers to you. May your Holy Spirit guide us as we enter your presence, teaching us to love you with all our heart, our minds and our strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Grant us a quietness of soul as we bring our concerns and worries to you: a relief that you are with us always, loving us when we are distant, shielding us when we are vulnerable, embracing us with a love that is beyond our understanding. Father, may we abide in you.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your world: a world in which you have given us all we need for life and happiness. Teach us that it is your creation, that it is entrusted to us, so that we may husband it for your glory and for future generations. Strengthen all those who are devoting their lives and energy to preserving it and conserving those elements which we and all your creation need for life. Help us to resist greed in wanting more than our fair share of its resources.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We remember before you the all those who lead the nations of the world, whether or not they are people of faith. Help them to perceive your Will, your cry for peace: for justice, and for the care of the poor. A deeper concern for sharing the fruits of human invention, a stronger calling to lead for all people, to resist the distortions and corruption that come so easily from holding power. Nurture them and guide them towards a holy vision for the future of your world and it's people. In particular we remember those places where there is conflict: Yemen, Syria, Myanmar, Afghanistan: the growing tension in the South China Sea: in Northern Ireland. We pray for refugees, for all those with a sense of hopelessness, those who are seeking your care and protection. May our concern lead us to find ways to give resources to those in need.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill, those who mourn and those who feel lost and rejected. We pause to bring before you those we know and love who are suffering at this time. We remember Ben aged 5 recovering from brain surgery, Catherine and all others suffering from cancer. Michael and those affected by heart disease. The Queen and all those who have recently lost dear ones.. we commend them to your love and power of healing, giving them strength and comfort in their suffering.

We remember those suffering from the tragedy in Israel: that you may console those who have lost children, family and friends. Help them in the long road of mourning, of coming to terms with gaps that can never be filled.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Father we bring to you the suffering, bewilderment and anguish caused by the pandemic of covid - 19. We pray for all those who are seeing their dearest dying in streets and corridors as health resources fail to reach them in time. May we urge our leaders to give necessary resources in real volume to help our brothers and sisters in India, Brazil, and other countries where preparations have been insufficient. We remember the many charities helping to protect children and the most vulnerable. Our hearts bleed for them. In the same breath we give thanks for vaccines and the growing safety we have in this country. May our gratitude lead us to give generously and to hold in prayer those who are suffering so acutely

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Father we bring before you those who lead the Christian churches at international, national and local levels. May the work and prayers of Christians bring strength and succour to those who are suffering in our midst, to those giving so fully of themselves in nursing and caring for the sick and frail. May we walk humbly as we recall their supreme efforts to save lives and to bring the sick back to health. Hold their hands as they hold the hands of those dying without family around them.

Father please protect us in the coming week. May we seek to do your will and to look on one another with love and thanksgiving.

Father we bring you these prayers in the name of our loving Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.