

Intercessions St Barbara's, 19/04/20

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

International

Father, we come before you to pray for all the victims of the Coronavirus. With hope we ask You to bring healing and peace to the world and an end to the pandemic; may we as Christians be able to find comfort and refuge in you, and bear witness of Your resurrection to the world.

We give You thanks for the ceasefire in Yemen led by Saudi Arabia because of the coronavirus. Yet, aware of the frailty and limits of this temporary agreement, we ask that You will touch the hearts of those in positions of power on both sides to take the chance, listen to the cry of their people and resolve to end the conflict.

National/Local

Lord, we come to you for help and strength in this time of sorrow. We pray for all essential workers who are giving up their lives; for our leaders and the leaders of the world, that they will work together for an end to a virus that knows no borders; and for the grace of an open heart, that we will see beyond numbers and feel compassion and pain for the victims, whether in our country or elsewhere in the world.

In our city, we pray for all the initiatives to help people in isolation or vulnerable: we pray for the homeless services that have had to close and for the new housing opportunities that have arisen; for the Good Neighbours project providing support to the isolated and those who cannot shop themselves; and for the communities and parishes creating new resilience and support networks.

Church

In the Anglican Communion, we give thanks for the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe and pray that its HIV Stigma and Discrimination Reduction programme may continue ensuring that people living with HIV all have dignity and experience the love of Jesus Christ abundantly.

In our Diocese, we pray for those who are living in fear of the impact of coronavirus, fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of isolation. May your Spirit give each of us a sense of calm and peace.

In our parish, we pray for all who live in The Riddings and Westleigh Avenue, and for the residents and staff of Aylesdene Court.

In our CTEC Prayer Cycle, we pray for the members of St Mary Magdalen Church and their vicar, Revd. Dwayne Engh.

We also pray for churches and Christians challenged to find new ways of worshipping and developing a personal relationship with God. May this time be an opportunity to examine ourselves and draw closer to God.

People of the Parish

We pray for all those who are ill, recovering from surgery, awaiting results of recent medical tests, or the housebound, of whom we name today: Mabel Cronin, Stephanie Cotton, Mary Owen, Wena Hughes and Ben Spriggs. That they may know God's loving presence and healing touch.

We pray for all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones at this time. In particular, we bring before you the families and friends of Joe North, John Rathbone, Peter Watts, Andrea Driver's mother, Doreen Winstone, and Joan Donaldson. And in Annual Remembrance, we pray for Frances Jelley, Gladys Bramble and Harriett Cooper.

Own intentions: In the quietness of our hearts, let us pray for our own intentions.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love: Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.