

Intercessions at 10 am on Easter Day, 12th April 2020

Let us pray for the Church and the world, and let us thank God for his goodness.

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

As we join this morning with your Church throughout the world to worship you and to celebrate the Good News of redemption and salvation, through the death and resurrection of Your Son, we know that too often we have locked up your truth in the Church and have not shared it with others. May each congregation offer a welcome to all, such that all people learn how to live in a world of difference, and may we be willing to become vulnerable as we proclaim your truth. Roll away the stone of unbelief, that your Church throughout the world may be renewed and strengthened as your witnesses, testifying to your redeeming work in the world.

And we pray for our partner churches in CTEC, that we may continue to work together in a spirit of fellowship and friendship. Be with each of their members at this time of stress, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

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

Loving Father, we give thanks for the medical and nursing services around the world working to contain and combat COVID-19. Protect doctors and nurses, hospital workers, social care and care home workers, as they deal with the pandemic, and we pray that through their skill and insights, many will be restored to health. We give thanks for all key workers, staying at their posts to serve our essential needs.

We thank you for the many volunteers who have come forward to help others. We give thanks for the practical assistance given within our own church family, for the many telephone conversations of support, and for the strengthening and renewing of relationships.

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

Gracious Father, we give thanks for the people of our parish. We each know good people who are up against it; and we know people who are harder to love. We hold them all to you now. And this morning we pray for those members of our congregation who live outside the parish and their communities, and we remember before you the residents and staff of St Andrew's House. We pray that you will keep them from harm, and we ask that they (and we) may grow in love of you.

Give grace to us our families and friends, and all our neighbours; that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

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

Merciful Father, we hold to you those households where the tension and stress of the lockdown is causing discord and strife. Pour in the oil of your love that harmony may replace conflict and peace supersede dispute.

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. From our church family we name today: Stephanie Cotton, Monica Harrison, Dorothy Hope, Gwyn Morgan and Wena Hughes, who are ill or housebound. We pray for families and friends now unable to visit relatives in hospital or care homes, and ask that you ease their anxiety. Comfort and heal all who are sick, and roll away the stone of illness, or breakdown or depression, or loneliness. Give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

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

Eternal Father and King of Easter, take from us all doubt and disbelief this Easter, as we pray for the souls of the faithful departed, holding before you Joe North, John Rathbone and Peter Watts. We pray that Rachel Rathbone and Thomas Watts and his sisters, Barbara, Joy and Grace, may know your presence with them, and that you look mercifully on all who are now facing the bitterness of bereavement.

We commemorate all whose anniversaries fall at this time, remembering by name: Thelma Deakin, Norman Davidson and Nancy Buntzen.

We remember with gratitude those whose love and faith have left their mark on our lives.

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ; according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Rejoicing in the fellowship of St Barbara and all your saints, we commend ourselves and all creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.