

## **Intercessions – Sunday 21st June 2020 (prepared by Ian Leitch)**

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 in worship of you, we pray for the Church of Bangladesh, and we give thanks as it gives testimony to Christ's love for the poor and marginalised by working for the betterment of poor people, irrespective of religion, caste or creed. Inspire its congregations, as they distribute food to their poorest neighbours, who, at present, are not able to support their families and who see lockdown starvation as worse than contracting Coronavirus. And we pray for the continued growth and success of its community health programme, as it re-opens its clinics and hospitals.

We give thanks for CTEC, as it works to bring greater cooperation between your churches here in Earlsdon and Chapelfields, and this morning we pray particularly for the members of St Mary Magdalen Church and their vicar, Rev'd Dwayne Engh.

We pray for our leaders and the leaders of our sister churches. Strengthen Christopher and John, our bishops and all your Church in the service of Christ; that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Loving Father of all, we pray for this and other countries where racial tensions persist. You have created a world of rich diversity, in which all humankind are your children by adoption, brothers and sisters of one another; each person loved by You. As we hear the cries for racial justice, we know that you require us "to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with You". May we not be deaf nor blind us to the pains, the hurts and the rejections experienced by those in the Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in our country. Help us to recognise and acknowledge the plentiful evidence of racism operating at so many levels in our own society. Remove from us all suspicion and racism, so that we may seek peace and justice for all, and open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

As the lockdown is progressively relaxed across Western Europe, we pray for governments and authorities as they develop strategies to keep their populations safe. Help us all to be responsible in the things that we do to prevent spreading the virus and by taking heed of the recommended precautions and avoiding situations which may make things worse.

We pray for those in developing countries that are suffering the rampant spread of infection, and we ask You to sustain the voluntary agencies, as they work to support the poorest communities facing multiple crises. Inspire world leaders to create a fairer world from the aftermath of this crisis, and give them the wisdom to seek the common good of all.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Almighty Father, we pray for your family of the church here in Coventry, as this month we prayer-walk each street, holding each of our fellow citizens to You in our *Open Heaven* initiative. We pray that you will pour your presence into every home, into every shop and business, and into each person's heart, so that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

On this Father's Day we give thanks for fathers all around the world, and we give thanks for their hard work, their caring, their generosity and their loyalty to their families. We pray for young fathers, learning to care for and enjoy their little ones, for experienced fathers who are learning to let go of their children, and for fathers whose unseen presence still guides their adult children. And we pray especially for fathers who are struggling to provide for their children because of the economic crisis, fathers who have been laid off and are looking for work, and those who despair of providing a roof over their family's head. We pray, too, for fathers who cannot care for their families because they are ill, or because they are incarcerated, and those who are separated from their families because they are immigrants or refugees. Be with all fathers this day, and grant them your grace and your healing so they may live out their vocation as fathers with dignity, strength, and peace.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Gracious Father, we give thanks for the people of our parish, and this morning we pray for all who live in Burnsall Grove & Burnsall Road and for the residents and staff of Belvedere Park Nursing Home. We pray that you will keep them from harm and we ask that they 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, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. From our church family we hold before you all who are sick or housebound, naming today: Stephanie Cotton, Mary Owen, Wena Hughes, Gwyn Morgan and Ben Spriggs. 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, we pray for the souls of the faithful departed, and we ask you to look mercifully on all who are now facing the bitterness of bereavement. We commemorate all whose anniversaries fall at this time, remembering by name: Bertie Sparrow, Richard Norman, Winifred Davies, Muriel Knighton, Lilian Welch and Emma Hearn.

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.**