

Intercessions 21 March 2021

In the name of Jesus, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, let us bring our prayers to our Father in heaven.

Lord, we thank You for all Your goodness to us: our homes, clothing, food, security. Help us to know and understand better the needs of those living in poverty, and to respond in Your love. As You are generous to us, may we be generous, with our time, with our money and our giftings to all You bring in our way. Thank You for the organisation CAP, Christians Against Poverty. We ask You to guide those seeking to set up a centre in the Tyne Valley, and that You will provide the expertise, manpower and finances necessary. We pray that many will be blessed through CAP and may come to find Your love and life and salvation through it.

Lord, we thank You for our schools, and that the children and young people have been glad to return to school. We pray protection in Jesus' name over pupils and staff in our local schools, and in schools where people we know attend or work. We pray that the reopening of schools does not lead to an upturn in Covid cases, but that the number of infections and deaths continues to decrease.

We pray for NHS staff, and dentist staff as they seek to cope with such a large backlog of people needing treatment. Lord, take from them any stress and anxiety, continue to protect them, and may they be blessed in their work.

We thank You that Prince Philip has been able to leave hospital. We pray for our Queen and royal family: may their faith in You be real and strong, may they find guidance in You as they serve our country. We pray for our Government and Parliament, for wisdom and guidance in law making and especially at the moment in all decisions over easing lockdown. We pray for the Opposition that they will fulfil their role with integrity.

We pray especially at the moment about the whole subject of the safety of women. We ask that all of us, men and women, will live respecting each other. Father, change our mindset that we may truly have the mind of Christ with regards to others of whatever gender, and of whatever skin colour. Teach us to love all people as You do.

Lord, we've heard on the news this week that the civil war in Syria has been going on for 10 years now, and the people have suffered under IS too. Father God, we pray, have mercy on the people of Syria. Bring the war to an end with justice. Thank You for the Christians there who are serving their people in so many ways. May other Christians be able to return to help build up the country again, sharing Your love and Your Gospel.

Lord Jesus, as You gave glory to the Father by obedience and by serving others, teach us to serve in Your name. Help us to share our faith with others, and to build each other up so that

we, as individuals and as Your Church, may serve in growing Your kingdom here, proclaiming Jesus as our Hope. So we ask You to have mercy on our nation, and bring the hearts of our people to seek You and turn back to You.

And now, Lord God, we thank you that You know our concerns and hear our prayers for those we know who need a particular touch from You on their lives. So, thinking of these people, we pray now for healing; for restoration of broken relationships; for strength to carry on in difficult circumstances; for hope for the future; and for grace to turn to You.

Heavenly Father, thank You for hearing our prayers, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer