

INTERCESSIONS - EASTER SUNDAY 4 April 2021

We gather together in prayer – our intercessions – knowing our Father hears us and wants us to come together to pray for the world, our nation, the church and for those issues which are on our hearts. Let's pray.

THE WORLD

Father we bring before you those countries in the world where there is tension, violence, oppression. We lift before you the situation in Myanmar where people are suffering, dying from the oppression imposed upon them. Dear Father, we pray for peace and reconciliation between the different factions. We pray this too for other countries, particularly Syria and Yemen, with long and ongoing civil wars, where there is desperate poverty and starvation, all made worse by the pandemic and where there is conflict between neighbours and communities which are torn apart.

Father we pray peace for Israel, we think of Jerusalem today a city of many faiths as Christians celebrate your resurrection. May your Easter message of love and joy spread throughout the land.

Father we pray for our Christian brothers and sisters taking the Easter message of love in countries where there is persecution for meeting together to praise you, to learn more about you. Please protect all who go forward in your name.

We pray for those fleeing from persecution, leaving their homes and families, who are prepared to face many dangers en-route with the possibility they may be refused entry. Father when they arrive at their final destination may they be welcomed with kindness.

Father God there are many situations where your wisdom is needed in order that justice may prevail.

WE PRAY OUR NATION

We pray for our Prime Minister, ministers and all in opposition as they govern. We pray for the decision makers, policy planners that they are guided by you. That this nation and its many aspects may be governed and ordered wisely. That those in positions of authority, may show special concern for the poorer and more disadvantaged members of our society. This period of lockdown has caused much hardship because of loss or reduced income.

We pray for good relationships between protestors and police, that where a police presence is required it will be done sensitively and that the protestors will observe the relevant rules.

Thank you for our Queen, for her dedication to duty, for her first public appearance this year outside Windsor Castle. Thank you that she has been an encouragement to many via video recordings during the pandemic. We continue to pray for complete healing and restoration for the Duke of Edinburgh following his recent procedure.

WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

Bless our Archbishops as they lead your earthly church in our nation. Grant them wisdom as they respond to the discussions regarding victimisation, racism, and social injustice. We pray

for Bishops Paul and Sarah, strengthen them as they lead in our diocese. We pray for Tom our vicar with responsibility as Area Dean and Chopwell Parish. We pray for Randy, Rosemary, Mike and all in ministry within our parish. Bless their ministry. We ask a blessing on Simon as he continues to train for Ordination.

We give thanks Father for those you have gifted and drawn into areas of outreach within our church family. For the online ministries: Prison Ministry, Healing Ministry, Children's Ministry. Thank you for the recent Alpha course, may those who have attended go on in the strength and knowledge of loving you.

We pray for those who provide for our local food bank. Thank you for those who regularly – voluntarily - share – to provide for those who do not have enough. We give thanks to those who so generously provide meals to church family members who are not well or incapacitated. Bless those who serve you through this ministry.

they gave to anyone as he had need (Acts 2 vs 45)

Bless those who serve you quietly through prayer and sharing their love for you, sharing the GOOD NEWS of Easter. As Rosemary said this morning 'Endings are not the end because they open doors to new beginnings.' We pray for opportunities to open doors to new beginnings with those we meet.

We pray for our forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting, for people to come forward to be elected as Church Wardens or PCC members, these are important roles within our church. We give thanks for the work Beth and Janet have undertaken in this past year.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING

Father God we find it incredibly hard to believe that it is over 12 months since many have been confined to their home because of Covid 19. We pray for those grieving the loss of a loved one, or where they have been unable to visit parents, grandparents, family members or friends because of the restrictions. We pray they will be comforted and believe in the victory of Jesus, who experienced the anguish of death and separation that all might have hope. We thank you Jesus that you bore our sufferings and sorrows, thank you through your wounds we are healed.

We pray for our Prime Minister, and for all the medical advisers, as they discuss the lockdown situation, how often and how many people can gather together safely, how best to proceed. We pray that the limited number meeting together in public areas is not abused thus preventing the spreading of the virus. Thank you Father for the vaccines which have been developed and that the pandemic is slowing but we continue to pray that it will be completely eradicated worldwide. Thank you for the roll-out vaccination programme that has allowed so many people to be vaccinated. We pray that the vaccine can be shared with poorer nations who have been unable to produce sufficient or purchase the vaccine themselves.

We pray for our young people growing up in a difficult and dangerous world. We pray for all who have suffered physical or mental abuse and those whose lives are overshadowed by violence. Give them peace, your healing and a sense of worth that comes from knowing that each one of them is loved by you. We ask that justice may be done when the perpetrators are brought to account. Thank you that the government have set up school's abuse helplines and a safeguarding review in response to allegations from students.

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES

Thank you that you bring light to those in darkness of doubt or unbelief. Help us to touch the lives of those who do not yet know you, that they may see in us, by our commitment, witnessing, loving approach and attitude following your resurrection instruction *Go into all the world and preach the Good News*. During times when we struggle, denying you, choosing not to speak out about our personal relationship with you Jesus, telling all that you were prepared to suffer and the joyous Easter resurrection all that it means to us, we remember your word from:

Isaiah 41:10 NKJV

Fear not, for I am with you;

Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Holy Spirit help us to promote the name of Jesus in all we do and say. Amen