

# Intercessions for Sunday 18th July 2021

Val Gardener

Our Bible readings this morning have reminded us about the power of Jesus to perform amazing miracles, and that His death on the Cross has reconciled us to You, Father God, so it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to You now, knowing that Jesus is our advocate in Heaven and our prayers will be heard.

Tomorrow we begin the next phase in our struggle to combat Covid 19, and I feel that we need to seek God's help for our country, as we begin this time of transition to greater personal freedom and personal responsibility, I would like to begin our prayers this morning with some words from a poem written by Amanda Gorman for the inauguration of Jo Biden, as President of the USA. These words were to herald a new vision for the people of America, but they also seem to be appropriate for us, as we look to the future in our country:

"We are far from polished; far from pristine . We are striving to forge a union with purpose ... so we lift our gaze not to what stands between us but what stands before us because we know to put our future first we must put our differences aside ...to seek harm to none and harmony for all."

Heavenly Father we bring before You this morning all members of our Government and Opposition, and pray that they will seek Your guidance over the plans for getting the economy and the infra- structure of our country back to stability. We pray , Father, that this will be done with real consideration for those who have been severely affected by this pandemic: those who have suffered the loss of loved ones or are still recovering from Covid 19 or other long term health conditions; those who have been affected by unemployment, homelessness and debt; the elderly, lonely and housebound and those who feel marginalised in our society. Dear Lord, we pray that we will all be committed to seeking a more equitable society for our citizens – one which values everyone, irrespective of their financial or social position.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father we pray for all leaders of Christian Churches in our land, that they will have a strong and powerful voice in all decision making. Lord help us, as a Nation, to remember our Christian roots and let all of us, who know and love You, display something of the love and compassion, which Jesus showed during His earthly ministry.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer

Father God, we thank You this morning for all who work in our National Health Service; for those who work as Carers and for those who have used their skills, and given so much of their time, to producing the vaccines, which are now

helping us to combat this virus. We pray that the vaccination process will continue to go according to plan and that younger people will feel confident to come forward to be vaccinated, to protect both themselves and others around them. We also pray, Father, that we will continue to make supplies of the vaccines available to less wealthy countries, to ensure they have the same opportunities to fight this disease. We also thank You, Lord, for all who continue to work us in the service and hospitality industries, and pray that we will be aware of the need to protect them from this disease , as they continue to serve us on a daily basis.

Lord on Your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the future of our education system and thank You , Father God , for the dedication of our teachers, and all who work in our schools. Lord, we pray that the education and well being of our children will always be a primary consideration, in any plans for the future of our country, and that real efforts will be made to ensure that every child is able to benefit from a good education; decent housing conditions and has enough good quality food to ensure that their health is protected. We also pray for families, where life is a constant struggle to provide an adequate standard of living, that we will all be prepared to help to provide for those in need and give them the opportunity to flourish, instead of just surviving.

Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Finally , Father God, we pray for ourselves and our families, as we begin this next phase of recovery from the pandemic. We pray for Your protection, Lord, because we know this pandemic is still with us. We ask that You will help each of us to be aware of the needs of those with whom we come into contact, during the next few weeks, and to be sensitive about the freedom we can now enjoy. Lord You have called us, Your people, to be lights in our world and we pray that You will help each of us to display something of Your love, to those we meet this week. Help us, Father, to let Jesus reign in our hearts this week so that love, peace and harmony will be present, wherever possible, in all our relationships with others

Father accept these prayers , for the sake of Your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.