

Intercessions Sunday 3 March 2024 (Third Sunday of Lent) by Charles Ledsam

PUT YOUR HEART WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS

Let us pray for the Church and for 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.

Last Friday was the World Day of Peace. We continue to pray for peace, hope and resilience in our world and indeed among our neighbours, no matter what race, colour or creed they are.

Lord in your mercy

We pray that the leaders of the nations may be guided by truth and justice in all that they do. Give strength and courage to all who suffer. Two years on, we pray especially for the people of Ukraine and Russia that there may be an end to this war. We also pray for tragic situation in Gaza and that there will be a ceasefire.

We pray and give thanks for all charities and organisations helping to support those who have become refugees and are hungry, lonely and homeless.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for our nation, for your servant, Charles our King especially in his time of illness, and all who are in authority under him. Bless Queen Camilla, William Prince of Wales and all the Royal family.

At this massively unsettled time in the world, which faces economic pressures, financial hardship and environmental challenges, give us all the ability to settle our differences and work together for the common good.

Lord in your mercy

Strengthen our Bishops and all your church, including Alan, Bill, Melanie, Geoff, Forbes, Maria and Kath, and all who serve here at St Andrew's and St Mary's in any way.

May those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love and reveal your glory to the world.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for our Town, especially for its businesses, people who work in offices and businesses and all those who are working today.

We also pray for those who are preparing for marriage.

Lord in your mercy

We give thanks for the gift of music and the arts, giving thanks for an amazing concert last night which touched our hearts, minds at spirit. We pray for all those who teach music, especially here in our schools

and in this town and surrounding areas. We give thanks for all those who fill our church with such a wide variety of music each week.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for those who are unemployed, suffering from stress, depression and anxiety and all those who love and care for them. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit including:

Debbie, Colin, John, Trevor, Francesco, Dino, Richard, Phoebe, Barbara, Robert, Oliver, Petra, Paul and Ivy

Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Hear us as we remember those who have died including:
Stephanie Butler, Geoff Voss and Ted Kelly

Give those who have been left behind strength and courage to cope in their time of grief.

We remember those whose anniversaries fall at this time:
Eva Woollard, Len Bowyer, Terry Miles and Kathleen Jollands

Lord in your mercy

May we create "Neighbourhoods of Hope" and ensure that we continue to keep a watchful eye on one another in these times of uncertainty and unsettlement.

May we try to be good shepherds and offer words of encouragement and hope to those whom we meet and to whom we speak.

A prayer for those living on their own

I live alone, dear Lord, Stay by my side,
In all my daily deeds, Be thou my guide.
Grant me good health, for that indeed, I pray,
To carry on my work from day to day.
Keep pure my mind, my thoughts, my every deed.
Let me be kind, unselfish in my neighbour's need.
Spare me from fire, from flood, malicious tongues
From thieves, from fear and evil ones.
If sickness or accident befall, then humbly, Lord, I pray,
Hear thou my call, and when I'm feeling low,
Or in despair, lift up my heart and help me in my prayer.
I live alone, dear Lord, yet have no fear,
Because I feel your presence ever near. AMEN

We rejoice in the fellowship of St Andrew and all your saints and commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love. May we be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen