

## **Intercessions Sunday 17 March 2019**

As well as being St Patrick's Day, today is the Second Sunday in Lent.

Let us pause for a moment and collect our thoughts. What have we given up for Lent? Or what have we taken on? What is our vocation?

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.

Strengthen our Bishops and all your church, including Alan, Wendy, our curate, and all who serve here; that 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*

Looking at our wider world

We pray for those affected by the Mosques tragedy in Christchurch.NZ. For the families of those who were killed or injured and for those caring for them in hospitals and in the community.

We pray for those many parts of the world where there is famine and flood, strife or unsettlement. We pray for those in Yemen and Syria, also for the people of Venezuela. Give strength and support to all those who seek to help them in their time of need.

We pray for those who have been trafficked and enslaved against their will and for all those agencies involved in supporting them as they face an uncertain future.

*Lord in your mercy*

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to all in authority, especially the leaders of the nations throughout the world.

We pray for our MPs as they struggle to do what is right for our country. We pray for the people of Northern and Southern Ireland as they too try to determine their future.

Direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace, that we may honour one another and seek the common good.

Give those in authority wisdom and understanding, the ability to listen and to seek practical solutions for the good of all.

*Lord in your mercy*

We pray for our Town in this time of change, for the councillors and those making difficult decisions regarding planning its future.

*Lord in your mercy*

We give thanks for the Church and St Andrew's Centre, for all the organisations which use the Centre. For the many opportunities it brings for outreach, as a place of welcome and healing.

We pray especially for this afternoon's service and tea for those with memory problems.

May the Centre and our church provide warmth and welcome, where all feel the sense of God's love and can find peace.

We pray for the forthcoming APCM.

*Lord in your mercy*

We pray for the sick and those who love and care for them. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit especially....

Give them courage and hope in their trouble and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for their carers too.

Hear us as we remember those whose anniversary falls at this time;

Names

*Lord in your mercy*

Read the Prayer of St PATRICK

We rejoice in the fellowship of St Andrew and all your saints and commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love.

Give us the ability to know our story, enable us to tell our story and to live our story.

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