

Intercessions

Sunday 3 May 2020

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. It is also Vocations Sunday, when as Christians we ask God for guidance as to how we can best serve him and the church.

This is a difficult time for us all as we struggle to see a light at the end of the tunnel. When we emerge into that light, what will be the "New Normal"?

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.

As we have just entered the month of May, some of you may have heard today's Dawn Chorus which reminds us that the birds are full of joy and excitement and Spring has sprung. It is a time of hope.

We thank you for the many blessings of our lives, especially for the wonder of the created world. For the new things we have learned and done in these past weeks. We thank you for our churches of St Mary's and St Andrew's and the many initiatives that groups are undertaking to support one another and make us all feel welcome.

Thank you for the blessing of being able to share more widely the joy of the Gospel. Let us take some time now to thank God for some of the blessings in our own lives and the life of our churches currently. (PAUSE)

Let us hope and trust in the Good Shepherd, Lord in your mercy

Strengthen our Bishops and all your church, including Alan, Bill, Wendy, Melanie, Geoff, Forbes and Tracey and all who serve our two churches; 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 a Great Realisation of what we hope our world, our country and our town will look like when the pandemic is over. For each of us these hopes will be different.

We pray for those many parts of the world where there is famine and flood, strife or disaster. We ask you, Lord, to help and inspire us all to work together for a changing world.

In particular, we pray for those who have been trafficked and enslaved or abused against their will and for all those agencies, including A21, involved in supporting them as they face an uncertain future.

Let us hope and trust in the Good Shepherd, Lord in your mercy

Bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; give wisdom to our Government and all in authority, especially the leaders of the nations throughout the world, that they may work together for the good of all.

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

Lord in your mercy

God knows us intimately-our thoughts and desires, our hopes and despairs. Jesus promised to be with us always and, during this time of isolation, we are never isolated from God.

Let us hope and trust in the Good Shepherd, Lord in your mercy

We pray for our homes, for our families and friends. For those with whom we have contact. We pray for our church communities and for the area we live in. We ask you to bless those who are fighting this pandemic-whether in an ICU ward, or a virtual classroom, or a shop or at home.

We pray for our town for its businesses and shops, struggling to cope with a massive down turn in activity and income. May we all share a spirit of generosity and support.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for those who are unwell and those who love and care for them.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit especially.... Colin Harding, Gillian MacKenna, Joe Caruana, Tim, Suzanne, Paul, Debbie, Malini, Mark Johnson, Bernard Stack, Ellen Cook, Barbara Wilbourn-Smith, Dave Martin, Rebecca Phipps, Andy, and Jo Holdstock.

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

We pray for those who have died, including Sheila Place and Terry Asser

We pray for comfort and support for all those who have lost loved ones at this time including Joan Haynes, Maureen Asser and Penny Wiggins.

Hear us as we remember in Years' Mind those whose anniversaries fall at this time;

Gwen Bennett, Reverend Nathan Thomas Gardner, Steven Childs, Les Wright, Winifred North, Teddy Major, Martin Woollard, Syd Elliott

*Let us hope and trust in the Good Shepherd
Lord in your mercy*

A Prayer for those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy,
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

As we long to see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel,
merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our
Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen