

Intercessions for Sunday 31 May 2020

by Forbes Mutch

Let us take a moment to consider the words of Alan's sermon. Lord, may you breathe peace into this moment and into our lives.

In the times we are experiencing right now, the newspapers tell us that breath is dangerous, that it carries a virus that we still don't understand fully; that breathing close to someone can be hazardous. We mask our faces but that doesn't stop breath being the fuel of life and God's breath being the fuel of faith.

Loving Father, we ask that we may feel the breath of your spirit in our lives; hear the whisper of your breath in the silence. May we breathe in the power of your love.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayers.

So, at the end of another week in Lockdown, we hold up to you Lord, those who are suffering, those who are lonely, those who are afraid; who fear for the future, those who are unwell. In our parishes, we pray particularly for:

Wendy Sellers, Ellen Cook, Paul, Debbie, Jo Holdstock, Malini, Tim, Andy, Rebecca Phipps, Barbara Wilbourn-Smith, Mark Johnson, Bernard Stack, Joe Caruana, Colin Harding, Gillian MacKenna, Suzanne, Julia, Pat Mutch, Ian Deans, and anyone else who only we may know.

We pray for those who are recently departed: Alan Wilbourne

And we remember in their Years' Mind those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Madeleine McPherson, John Albert Cecil Kemp, Ruby Walls

We believe in a mystery: just as Jesus shared our mortality and pain as he died on the cross, so you Lord are with those who suffer now. May your hands stretch out with healing and hope.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayers.

Father, we thank you for the fellowship of St Andrew's and St Mary's, now joined virtually, apart but together.

We thank you for the leadership of Alan and Wendy, who we're pleased is on the mend after her recent stay in hospital.

We thank you for our Lay Readers; and for all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make our new digital community happen. Those who write Thought for the Day; who post messages on WhatsApp and our websites. It seems so effortless, but you know, Father, how much planning and effort goes into the words that are written and every posting and new development that happens.

And, lest we forget, we also remember those doctors and nurses and care workers who are dealing with Covid-19; risking their own lives to save others.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Father, this world we live in,
This town or village we live in,
These streets we live in,
These houses we live in,
May we feel your breath there.

Those we live with,
Those we are distant from,
Those we find irritating,
Those we love,
May you breathe on them all.

Those who laugh,
Those who cry,
Those who hurt,
Those who hide,
May your breath stir their days.

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