

Prayers for Sunday, 26th April 2020

God of all grace,

Our world is in a chaotic state. For once our privilege and wealth and position does not shield us from the plague. Yet, even here we need to raise the concern of others above ourselves. God, you have the whole world in your hands, please send your healing - please send your grace. Please start with those in most need. Please send your Holy Spirit to those languishing in refugee camps or crowded slums where social distancing is only a dream. Please keep those who are impoverished and without healthcare safe and healthy. Please send a balm upon our world and heal our land. We pray also for those throughout the world who are isolated and locked in with no access to outdoor spaces, who are not allowed to exercise and enjoy the outside world during this time when the seasons are changing and this hemisphere is at its most beautiful. Send your grace and patience to those who must wait inside.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer.

God of all grace,

Our country is reeling with the daily fallout as more and more consequences from the virus and the subsequent isolation and shut-down are made evident. Businesses, large and small, are struggling; families are struggling; our government is struggling. We ask for wisdom, for kindness, for compassion and for a spirit of camaraderie to prevail in our interactions with one another. We pray for companionship in many forms to support the most isolated and lonely within our community.

Our prayers of gratitude pour out for those who have given of their time, their wealth, their expertise and talents to help our communities at this time. Evidence of compassion and giving surround us on all sides; help us to learn from these small glimpses of Christ and seek to be more and more like him in all we say and do.

Our prayers of gratitude and concern pour out for those who serve daily - those who care in hospitals and care homes or in the community or just at home; for those who cook, who clean, who serve in countless ways in our community; for those who keep our society moving who deliver goods, who provide sanitation, who keep the lights on, who keep the all important internet running; for those who support those working in the necessary and front line jobs - God we are so grateful and ask your blessings and care upon them all. Keep them safe; keep them strong; place a hedge of health around them.

God of all love,

We ask in faith that this spirit of love and compassion and care and community will not disappear as the barriers on our social interaction are lifted; keep us spiritually present in this moment so that we will share this with others as we go forward.

God of love in the eye of the storm

We pray for those living in dangerous situations, for those who are suffering domestic violence. Please put a hedge of protection around them; lead the victims to places of

safety; place someone in their lives who can help them to find an escape; give those in their paths the wisdom to see the danger and offer aid.

Lord, in your mercy; hear our prayer

God of all healing,

We ask for your grace and mercy for those who are unwell. We pray that doctors and hospitals will have the wisdom and the capacity to give aid where it is needed and that healing will be granted.

We pray for families, particularly in these days where being with your family member in hospital is so difficult. Please grant companionship, peace and an absence of fear to those who are suffering, particularly those who must be alone in their suffering. Please allow them to feel your love and your presence with them.

Lord, in your mercy; hear our prayer.

God of this world and the next,

We pray for those who have died; we ask that you bring them to your side. We pray particularly for those who are alone when they cross from this world to the next; may your angels be present to them in a powerful way.

We pray for those who mourn. God, those who mourn are suffering so much right now; the inability to say good-bye as we expect is a real burden for so many. God, we need grace and your love in a special way for those who mourn. Please hold them in your arms; please grant them the grace to hold onto you. Please place people in their lives to sustain them through this time.

Lord, in your mercy; hear our prayer.

God, you tell us you hear our supplications and that you free us from the snares. We ask for you to hear and to free us. We pray as those who believe and know you are a true and faithful God. Hold us and sustain us we pray and help us to minister to those around us in desperate need of your grace.

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen