

INTERCESSIONS FOR EASTER 2, YEAR A

The disciples, known to be followers of Jesus, have locked themselves away, afraid of arrest and possible death.

Dear Lord, we bring to you all who greatly fear in these days. May they have confidence in your power to save.

Many people worldwide do not know of your great love and the peace you freely give.

Dear Lord, help us to be bold and brave to take your message to the doubtful, the cynical, those who have lost their faith. Sustain those who are suffering now, and comfort their families. Let them know of your loving care.

We bring to you all who suffer now: from the virus, those whose medical needs can no longer be met, all who fear themselves to be a nuisance if they seek medical help.

Dear Lord, sustain those who are suffering now, and comfort their families. Let them know of your loving care.

Dear Lord, we commit to you all who have left this life to go home to you. Be with those who mourn and bring them comfort.

In these days of darkness, we give thanks for the talents and dedication of all those working in hospitals – medical staff, chaplains, cleaners, porters, kitchen, laboratory staff – and also for carers in the community and scientists working to find a vaccine.

Dear Lord, give them courage, determination and resilience; keep them safe.

People fear that our world dynamic will change; that life as we now know it, nationally and internationally, it may, perhaps, be for the worse.

Dear Lord, let your Spirit guide governments as they seek strategies for the present and for the future so that justice and compassion for others are prized above power and personal gain.

As doubts creep in and gloom descends, help us to think of the small pleasures of life: phone calls, helpful neighbours, the new life of spring.

Dear Lord, as you rose to life on Easter Day, as you dispelled Thomas's doubt, as you brought your love and peace to the terrified disciples, may we know you recognise you more clearly as the God who longs to enter our hearts.