

Christchurch Intercessions
Pentecost Sunday 23rd May 2021

Father, we give you thanks that on this day of Pentecost, we too might share in the gift of the Holy Spirit; and as with the disciples, it brought joy and meaning to their lives, so may our lives be infected and enriched by its power.

Lord, in your mercy ...

We pray for all those who serve us within this Church, this Deanery and this Diocese: We pray for Archbishop Justin, for Bishop Christopher and Bishop Richard, and for our priests: Alison, Mark, Belemo and Duncan. We pray also for Nick our Reader, and for Desmond and Alison, our Church Wardens. We pray for all those who contribute to making our worship – throughout the Team Ministry – meaningful, enjoyable and safe.

Lord, in your mercy ...

Father, we pray for those living in situations of war and unrest at this time. We pray that the fragile peace between Israel and Gaza may become stronger and more meaningful; and we pray for all people living stressful lives because of war or the threat of war or acts of terrorism; and those living in situations of natural disaster. We continue to pray for those living in the shadow of volcanos, those coping with the threat of earthquakes and disasters at sea. We give thanks for rescue-workers, mediators and peace-makers, who sometimes risk their own lives to save others.

Lord, in your mercy ...

We pray for people, near and far, who suffer through their own personal tragedies – those whose plight hits the news headlines one day, but is replaced in the media by something equally shocking the following day. We pray for people whose lives are changed or permanently damaged by accident, injury or the thoughtlessness or maliciousness of others.

Lord, in your mercy ...

We pray for people still suffering through the pandemic: particularly the people of India and those either refusing vaccines or not able to receive them; and those unable to have adequate or effective medical treatment. We pray for people who are once again experiencing lockdown. And we remember those suffering with Long Covid, and particularly people for whom long may well be permanent.

Lord, in your mercy ...

Father, we pray for those around us who have problems with literacy, numeracy and the increasing need for technical skills. We remember those unable to cope with the demands of modern society, and who cannot do simple or necessary tasks because simplicity has become more complex. We give thanks for people who help others in this way, and those who volunteer for helpful organisations like Citizens' Advice Bureau and Age UK.

Lord, in your mercy ...

We pray for all people who will use our Churches during the next few months: babies, children and adults preparing for Baptism; couples preparing for marriage – those whose banns are being read now; people preparing for Confirmation and other offices within the Church; and those who will attend funeral Services here. We pray that the Churches within our Team will be places of joy, comfort and inspiration for all those who come within these walls.

Lord, in your mercy ...

We pray for the souls of those who have died: for those whose funerals have occurred in the past week or will occur in the coming week. We pray for Religious Ministers, hospice staff and funeral directors, who work hard and sensitively to assist people in the last moments of their lives, and also help mourners to live through their time of bereavement.

Lord, in your mercy ...

We give thanks for the saints – for those who have gone before us and been a light and an example to so many people throughout the ages. We pray that through the gift of the Holy Spirit, our lives may be enhanced and inspired, so that we can feel equipped to show Christ to others in all that we do and all that we are.

We offer our prayers before you as we say:

Merciful Father ...