

Holy God, you have called us here today; and so as we gather together at home and in church we offer to you our prayers which stem from our love for you and our love and concern for those we love and for the people of the world.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Let us pray trustfully to the God who has loved us into being and cherished us all our lives.

Almighty God, we pray for your Church; for Bishops, Priests and Deacons; for Readers and Lay Ministers; for Churchwardens and PCC's; that they will know how to strike the right balance between their work and family lives. We pray that You will give them courage when they need to resist being controlled by others, and will teach them to take control with understanding, always reflecting the love of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We give you thanks for those who come up with fresh ways of making your name known to the wider community and for those who work so hard to make worship possible through online services.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Lord God we pray for all who work for peace and unity, and for all world leaders that they will continue to seek for an end to the suffering caused by war and violence, injustice and inequality, disease, prejudice, poverty and hopelessness and bring healing to the world. We pray especially for those fighting terrorism in Syria and for peace in the Holy Land. We continue to pray for those who are refugees and seek safety in another country, despite the dangers of the journey. We pray for the leaders in Europe especially that agreement can be reached on how to cope with so many in a way that is fair and achievable, and that does not lead refugees and migrants into danger and exploitation. Lord Jesus – as a child you were a refugee and were kept safe in another country – help us to hold that example, as a solution to the current crisis is sought.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, forgive us when we waste our lives by being too busy to enjoy your creation. Teach us how to make spaces in the day to do the things we most enjoy. Just as you rested from your work, and encouraged the Israelites to rest, help us to practise the discipline of recreation and help us to become your hands and feet in our street so that our neighbours will one day ask us to tell them more about you.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God we pray for the work and service of all care homes and day centres for elderly and sick people, and for those carers who look after family and friends in their own home. And thank you for the many charity organisations who raise money and provide supportive services to help. We pray for all finding their life painful, lonely or uncertain, especially those who are ill or vulnerable. Help them to sense your comfort in times of need and bless their families and carers. We pray for all those who are struggling in their lives. Bring them hope of an end to their sufferings, and a resolution of their difficulties. Show us the best way to help those who suffer, without being intrusive but without simply turning away from their pain either. In a moment of silence we especially pray for those on our hearts at this time.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, when death separates from us those we love and we find it hard to live without them, take from us all bitterness and resentment and help us to remember that death has no power at all over the peace you give and the love we shared with the departed goes beyond the grave.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Holy God, as we prepare for the week to come, help us to know Christ and the power of his resurrection day by day and in the sharing of his sufferings to become more like him in his death.

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