

## **Prayers of Intercession – First Sunday of Lent – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

Father God, among your many promises to us, you promised to hear us when we pray in faith. Help us to quieten our hearts and minds, and choose to turn our faces to you now, knowing that as we draw close to you, so are you moving closer to us.

*In your mercy...hear our prayer...*

We pray for the church throughout the world. May we become your hands, reaching out to do your work in the world. Caring for the sick. Protecting the planet, fighting against injustice. We pray for those threatened and abused for their faith.

We thank you, for the work of churches as vaccine distribution centres and food banks, ministering to the most vulnerable in our society.

We pray for our churches here in the parish of Tettenhall Wood. We pray for Trysull Deanery. We pray for all the ministry teams and volunteers in our area who are working to bring the good news to everyone. We pray that you would refresh them and bless them. Help us all look at the world with fresh, hopeful eyes.

*In your mercy...hear our prayer...*

We pray for the world through the pandemic. We pray for everyone who is scared and alone. FOR countries ravaged by war and violence. for those in political turmoil.

We pray for children who are hungry or frustrated not able to go to school or see their friends. for everyone working from home and students trying to study. May we reach out and share with those in need. May we not turn away and refuse to listen because its difficult and upsetting. Help us find joy where we can. All the little stories of people reaching out and being caught by a waiting hand. Of laughter and song. Of hope and faith.

*In your mercy...hear our prayer...*

We pray for everyone affected by Covid, for those in hospital, for those isolating. We raise before you our NHS and ask you to protect and uphold these people who have carried us through this. Who have left behind their families and loved ones to care for ours. In a moment of silence, please name before the Lord, those who need our prayers at this time....

And we pray for those who have died, and who are now safe with you in glory. We pray for everyone left behind. Hold them tightly Lord, let them feel you there. We pray for everyone grieving today, whether it be an old hurt or new. We hold fast to your promise that those we can no longer see are safe with you.

*In your mercy...hear our prayer...*

Jesus you are the fulfilment of all the promises. Nothing is too hard for you. The light is still shining in the darkness. And the father delights in you as he delights in me, in all of us. You will guide us every step of the way if we trust in you.

Shake us out of our apathy. Help us to put our faith in you into action. You are our solid rock. Our firm foundation. With you behind us, help us to move forwards. You keep all your promises. You have a plan for us and we have a hope and a future.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**