

Intercessions for Sunday 30th January 2022

In our first reading we heard of the nature of true love for all people; in the second reading we are reminded in passing that women were, and often still are, regarded as unclean in childbirth.

We pray today for women who are regarded as lesser people, who are maltreated, or are held back by society and by men in particular.

Lord, we want to pray for women, but we must pray for men as well.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We hear of the prophet Anna, blessing the Christ child alongside Simeon. Yet we know that in the Christian Church women are not always treated on a par with men.

We pray for women who are frustrated in their ministry, who feel their calling is not recognised.

We pray for men and all of us in the church who find it difficult to acknowledge the true worth of women.

Lord, we want to pray for women, but we must pray for men as well.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We were reminded this week of the politician who said no sensible businessman would employ a woman of child-bearing age. We know that women are often denied opportunities in their career or in the workplace.

We pray for women who find that their need to be a mother can conflict with their aspirations in the world. And we pray that the full potential of women in work and culture can be recognised by men and by all of us.

Lord, we want to pray for women, but we must pray for men as well.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We hear so often of girls and women who are abused verbally, hatefully or violently over their sexuality. We know that power in sexual relationships is often not shared equally.

We pray for women and girls who find their bodies are being taken advantage of, and who feel shame when they speak out about oppression or physical assault.

We pray for men and all of us in society who objectify women and take advantage of them.

Lord, we want to pray for women, but we must pray for men as well.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

More generally, we pray for those who are sick, or lonely or frightened. We pray especially for those who, despite the lifting of Covid restrictions, still feel vulnerable and unable to take their full part in society.

We remember those who are on our minds at this time; may we understand their needs and what we can offer.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We remember also those who have passed to a better life elsewhere, and those who are left to mourn them; may we offer comfort and support as we treasure their memories.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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