

## **Parish of Finchampstead - Prayers for the Corona Virus**

As Christians we have a responsibility to pray for the world around us. We do this by praying to God the Father, through Jesus his Son, by the Holy Spirit. May we pray.

### **A Confession**

*If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-10)*

Dear Lord, we are sorry for how we have treated the creation that you have given us. Please forgive us for our carelessness and our greed. Help us to treat our animals with the care and respect that they deserve. May we look after the natural environment around us and share it with others rather than use it for personal profit and gain. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer***

### **A prayer for those in authority**

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

Dear Lord, we pray for our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and for his cabinet. We ask that you assist all those in government as they make decisions and policies that help prevent the spread of the Corona Virus. At this time, we pray for scientists and those who have the ability to create vaccines and other medicines that would alleviate the pain and suffering, and stop the virus from spreading. Please help our National Health Service cope with the large influx of people who are requiring hospital treatment at this time because of the outbreak. Please help countries and organisations such as the World Health Organisation assist each other in finding ways of overcoming the crisis. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer***

### **A prayer for society**

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. (Matt. 22:37-40)*

Dear Lord, in the midst of the Corona Virus we pray for our doctors, nurses, and other health professionals as they come under pressure to provide medical services to all those who are unwell. We ask Lord that you protect them and their families at this time. We pray for other key workers who are having to work to provide vital services at this time. We pray for our police and ambulance services, our supermarket staff and the many other people who are having to continue to go to work during this crisis.

At this time we also think of all those whose lives have been disrupted because of the virus. We particularly pray for all those who have had much needed operations delayed and all those at school or in higher education who are no longer able to continue their studies. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer***

### **A prayer for the church**

*The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life, a ransom for many (Matt. 20:28)*

Lord, as followers of you, our calling in this world is to not to be served, but to serve. As the church may we reach out in faith and not in fear to serve those around us. May we be courageous and sensitive as we comfort those who are feeling vulnerable at this time. Help us provide the pastoral support that is necessary particularly for those who are elderly, living on their own, or who are having to live with chronic illnesses. Help us be mindful of our own actions at this time and may we all play our part in helping alleviate the crisis that is upon us. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

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