

Parish of Finchampstead and California

Intercessions for 19 July 2020 - St James' Day

Let us thank God for his goodness and pray for the Church and the world.

On this St James' Day we give thanks for the saints and martyrs down the ages. And as we honour their sacrifice we pray for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their Christian faith in so many countries of the world; give them courage, endurance and hope.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the secular saints of the Covid-19 pandemic - the staff of the NHS, and of schools, cleaners, delivery drivers, and all on whom we rely. Give them the rest and relaxation they need and deserve. And be with the many thousands in this country who have lost their jobs already or are likely to lose them.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the church communities of our Parish, for mutual support and encouragement when times are hard and the future still uncertain. Be with those for whom isolation, lack of regular routine, and worry for their families and themselves, causes frustration and despair; and with those who are lonely.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for people we know who have survived Covid-19. We pray for all those for whom our prayers have been asked and whose names are on our newsheet and in our hearts; also for those grieving for loved ones who have died.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the commitment of so many in authority: for the Queen, Government, MPs and advisers; for local councillors and those who work on behalf of our local community. Give them vision, strength and integrity.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bless those who are preparing our parish profile and send us the right person to be our new incumbent. Bless also our churchwardens, officers, Ministry team and PCC during the vacancy.

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