

Intercessions for the First Sunday of Lent – 21st February 2021

Everlasting God, your son Jesus Christ was tried and tempted by the devil. May we never be ashamed of temptation but saved from the weakness of giving in. Help us choose the way of faithfulness rather than popularity, service rather than fame and sacrifice rather than power.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayers.**

Lord we give thanks for our ministry team who along with volunteers are maintaining our services and pastoral care. We pray for the whole family of your church here in the Finchampstead, California and Arborfield Green. May all your people be built up in faith and demonstrate in their lives the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially at this time as we struggle to be together because of the pandemic. Help us to play our part in the life of the Church throughout the world with our prayers and by our gifts of money and service during this season of Lent and beyond. Give courage to those who find it hard to follow you. Give us a fresh vision that leads to action and strengthen us to serve you in the places where we live.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayers.**

Creator God, for those in positions of authority and leadership we pray that they do not misuse their powers but respect and care for all their peoples and for the natural resources of their countries. During Lent may we be constantly aware of those in our world who are always hungry and thirsty and of all those who have so little when we have so much.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayers.**

Father God, we ask you to protect our loved ones, our friends, and our neighbours. We pray that this Lenten season may bring grace to those dear to us who no longer practice their faith, and that they may return in the certain knowledge of your loving acceptance of them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayers.**

Loving God, we pray for those who are ill and in pain who are longing to live full lives, for those who are sad and hurt longing for comfort, for those in hospital awaiting treatment, for those convalescing, seeing an end to their suffering and for those whose only relief will come through death. May we always offer gentle support to those in trouble, sensitive encouragement to those in need, and strength and support to those in weakness. We especially pray for any suffering from Coronavirus.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayers.**

Merciful God, we pray for those saddened by the death of someone close to them. Give them your comfort as they mourn for their loved ones and turn their darkness into light. We commend to your everlasting love and care those who have died praying that they will rest in the light of Christ.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayers.**

Gracious God help us to see this time of Lent as an opportunity to develop our discipleship and discipline and ask your Son Jesus us how to reject temptation. Fill us with grace to be faithful to his example in this Lenten season and the years ahead. We give thanks for all those people who are putting themselves at risk by maintaining all essential services.

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