

Intercessions for 28 March 2021. Palm Sunday

Let us pray to the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to give us life. On this Palm Sunday, Gracious God, be with all your people as we journey through this week of remarkable events, through Good Friday and on to Easter Sunday. May your church be challenged and strengthened by all that Jesus did and tell it out into a world that definitely needs to hear the good news of forgiveness and reconnection through your amazing grace. Bless our church leaders and especially our new Rector as he prepares to join us in July.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for our world bound together by a global pandemic. For some nations this comes on top of the already harsh realities of poverty, natural disasters, persecution and war. May we and other countries in better circumstances be generous with the sharing of vaccines and with our financial and prayerful support. We pray for all those in positions of power and authority that they may be guided by your loving hand to make good decisions for the benefit of all.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

We pray for our local community and all who live or work in this area. May the spirit of community that the pandemic engendered live on in acts of kindness, care for our neighbours and support for our local businesses. We have learnt hard lessons that those on the lowest pay are often the ones contributing most to our general wellbeing. Lord Jesus, you turned over the tables of the traders in the temple; turn over our prejudices and stereotypes so that we value everyone equally as a beloved child of God.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Most loving God, we bring before you all those suffering in mind, body or spirit. There are those named on our notice sheet, those known personally to each one of us and the many known to you, Lord, who are suffering directly or indirectly as a result of the pandemic. May they feel the peace of knowing you are with them especially when family or friends are prevented from getting close and restore them to health if it be your gracious will.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

God of mercy, we pray for all those who are mourning the death of a loved one. Comfort them in their grief, help them to come to terms with their loss, particularly where they feel that proper goodbyes were inadequate or even

impossible. Help them to hand their loved ones into your loving care with confidence of a better life in your heavenly kingdom.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Finally, for ourselves, gracious God, make us wiser, kinder, humbler, more generous as a result of our experiences over the last year. Be with us as we journey with Jesus through Holy Week so that we understand more fully the enormity of his sacrifice and the great blessings he has won for us. May that knowledge inspire us afresh to share the good news of Easter as widely as possible.

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