

Intercessions for Easter 5 – 2nd May 2021

Holy and most merciful Father God, the three bible passages on our notice sheet this week make it abundantly clear that there is no place for inactivity in the Christian life. Each of us is called upon to bear fruit, to play our part in the furtherance of your kingdom here on earth. Loving God, we all have different gifts and are in different situations so we ask you this morning to challenge each one of us and guide us in the ways we each can act to spread the good news of Jesus throughout our world.

In your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We give thanks today for the people who started us on our personal journey of faith by speaking to us about Jesus and pointing us on our way. Remind us of Jesus' command to us to "make disciples of all" and give us the courage to share our faith where and with whom you direct us, just like Philip did with the Ethiopian stranger. As that conversation is believed to have taken Christianity into Africa, encourage us to play our part in the simple conversations about Jesus that we too can have.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creator God, you call on us to reflect your love for your people in the way we behave towards others. Help us to do this in our families, our community and the world. We pray this morning for all the leaders in our churches, in businesses, in our local community, in our government and in the nations of the world. Give them wisdom in good decision-making, compassion and care for their people in all they do and energy to work for the good of all. As well as our prayers, show us Good Lord how we can play our part actively to support and challenge those leaders, where appropriate. We pray for this week's local elections and next month's church elections and we pray that we will be involved in electing good people who know what is right and have the courage to make right decisions, especially those that affect the poor and the marginalised.

In your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, help to discern how your command to 'love one another' can actually work in our daily lives. Show us how to demonstrate patience, kindness, appreciation to those with whom we live and work, those we meet in shops and supermarkets; those with whom we share our roads and those who serve us in our communities. We pray for all those who are finding life difficult because of sickness, loneliness, financial worries, bereavement or other troubles. Bring them comfort, relief and reassurance that you are always with them but also show us how we can help.

In your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

As we go out into the world to face another week and the continuing Pandemic, help us to live out our lives according to your son Jesus Christ's example and to be fruitful in all we think and speak and do.

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