

*Prayers – Fruits of the Spirit Joy and Generosity 010821*

*Father God, giver of all good things, we pray that you will pour on us the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Let us be ever thankful for your abundant goodness. Help us to be generous, kind, and gentle in all our speaking and doing. Strengthen us day by day, to do your will in building your kingdom.*

*Heavenly Father, help us to find our joy in you. Living a life that draws its strength from you is a life of true and deep joy. Even in the most difficult times, help us all to rejoice in all you have given us, and in your plan for our lives. Give us quiet moments in each day when we may seek you, the well that never runs dry. So joy overflows constantly into the lives of everyone we meet.*

*Lord, in your mercy...*

*We pray for the Church of Christ*

*Lord, look graciously on your Church. We pray for Stephen and Olivia our Bishops as they continue the difficult task of leadership. In our own parish for Rev Leonard and his family as they settle into our community. Lord give strength to Leonard, Julian, Tonia and all the ministry team as they begin a fresh chapter of work together. May they see you more clearly; and help us all to love you and follow you more nearly day by day.*

*Lord, in your mercy.....*

*We remember our broken World. We recall those who are suffering throughout the world through unrest, through war, famine or disease. We remember those who are suffering today from the violence and instability around the world. For migrants and refugees wherever they may be this Sunday. For the work of the United Nations in working for peace and justice. And the work of the Red Cross, Christian Aid, and all agencies working to relieve those in distress.*

*Lord, Give wisdom to the World's leaders, and to all in authority. And continue to enable the good work of the relief agencies. Direct this nation and every nation in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.*

*Lord in your mercy...*

*We pray those who are unwell, in hospital or at home, for those suffering from the pandemic, and all in any kind of need or distress. We think of all those known to us and those who have asked for our prayers this week.*

*Lord, grant we pray that amidst any discouragements, difficulties, dangers, distress, and darkness in our lives, we may depend on your mercy and on this build our hopes.*

*Lord, our creator, you feed your children with the living bread from heaven: let it sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage, until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more, and we are united for evermore with you and with those whom we love. We bring to mind all those who are mourning, including the families and friends of those named on our notice sheet this week.*

*Lord in your mercy..*

*Lord Fire us all with the power of your spirit – that we have both the vision and strength to maintain a loving and outward looking community full of joy and generosity, caring for each other, both those near at hand, and those in distant places, achieved through our actions each and every day.*