Intercessions Easter Sunday 12th April 2020

As the hymns we sing today echo the joy we feel as together we celebrate your glorious resurrection, we recognise that Easter Sunday this year for many is tinged with fear and sadness, all emotions which were present on that first Easter Sunday when Mary and the other women went to the tomb and found things not as they expected them to be. Today is not as we expected it to be, but the reality of your resurrection doesn’t change and so we come to you, our resurrected lord in prayer to pray for our world, your church, our families, our friends and ourselves.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

We pray for a world that recognises the risen Jesus and imagine how changed it would be; free from hatred, violence, poverty and injustice; a place where all would live together in love and harmony.  We thank you that nations and political parties are working together at this time to keep people safe. Be with and direct them as they make decision about the current lock-down situations and when to lift restrictions. We pray particularly for those who live in countries where healthcare is limited and poverty brings even greater challenges at this time.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for the queen and the royal family. We thank you for her faith and the powerful message that she has given us all this Easter in saying that we need Easter this year as much as ever, May we, hold on to the truth that she reminded us of that “The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose... As dark as death can be, particularly for those suffering with grief, light and life are greater.” Help us to be the light of Christ in this current situation whatever that means for each one of us – whether it is being a key worker making sure that the essential services that our society needs continue, a parent at home teaching their child, someone adapting to a new way of working from home, someone who has been furlowed and doesn’t know when they will work again, a carer in the NHS or within our own home, a grandparent finding new ways to connect with family or the voice at the end of the phone talking to someone who hasn’t spoken to another person for days.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for your church throughout the world, Today we ask you to be with Bishop Steven Cotteril as he leaves Chelmsford diocese and prepares to take up his new role as Archbishop of York. We thank you for the creative ways those within your church are finding to keep us all connected at this time, and for the example of the Archbishop of Canterbury giving his address from his kitchen. We pray particularly for Andrew and Helen, Katrina and Sharon that they will find time to rest this week after having ensured we have been able to worship together during Holy Week. May they know that they are appreciated and loved by us all for everything that they do.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Just as the stone was rolled away, we pray that you will roll away the stones of illness, despair, worry and fear that are so prevalent at the moment. We pray for all those who are working within the Baldock corona virus support group to bring comfort and support to people in our town. We take a moment to name before you in our hearts or out loud, those know to us personally who are suffering at this time and need to hear you, as Mary did, speaking words of life and hope.

Pause

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Lord, today we are reminded that your love reached beyond the grave to raise your son. We pray for those who have died recently, especially those who have succumbed to the Corona virus and for those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time that they too may be raised with Christ and sing with us and the angels Alleluia as they see you face to face. Be with those who mourn, especially as they have probably been unable to be at the bedside of those who are dying and may be unable to attend their funeral. Give peace and comfort to them and may those who minister to them, and to the dying, be the body of Christ on earth.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Even though we are physically apart today, we rejoice in Jesus’ glorious resurrection.  Help us to continue to live as resurrection people, and despite our present difficulties and restrictions, show the world that we are your disciples.

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