

Intercessions Sunday 17th May 2020

Creator God, who made the world and everything in it, you teach us, through the beauty and abundance of creation, to put our trust in you for all things. We ask you now to bless our fields and gardens, our woods and our mountains, our allotments and flower pots, our hills and streams our rivers, lakes, reservoirs and seas that in all these things we might glimpse a reflection of your glory and your gracious love for each one of us.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

On this Rogation Sunday when we remember especially the countryside around us here in Baldock and Bygrave and all who work there, we pray for farmers, growers, all who tend the livestock and all who by their labour, bring food to us. Bless their endeavours, and their crops. May we value their work and not merely seek cheap food at their cost. We pray for those who will go hungry or thirsty today. May they be filled, and may we do what we can to make sure that their needs are met.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We ask you to bless, the houses and farms and all the homes in this benefice. We pray for all who live in this place, for all who work here, for all who regard this place as home (wherever they may now live) and for all who simply pass through. May your blessing rest on us all as we live together in your peace.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies particularly as the lock down begins to be lifted, that they may make wise decisions. We pray for the Baldock headteachers as they make plans for the return of some of the children on 1st June and for many employers as they seek to plan for re-opening and keeping their staff and the public safe. We also pray for all the key workers who have worked tirelessly throughout this period, for those who are working from home, balancing their time and for those who are furloughed and unsure of what the future holds.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church throughout the world, that we may find ways to both preach the word and serve our neighbours, especially during this time of separation and crisis. May decisions that are made by our diocese bring glory to you. We give thanks for Andrew, Sharon and Katrina and ask that you will draw close to them at their point of need as they in turn minister to us in new and creative ways. We also pray for all those who we would normally see in church but are missing on zoom. May they know your presence and embrace in their homes today.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that you will give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure to the virus which is causing the current pandemic. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery. We long for a day when we can again hug those who we love and share their company but until then we entrust all those we love and pray for to you, in particular we pray for our grandchildren including Hunter – give them a special hug from you today. Along with those who we have prayed for in our hearts, we pray for all those named, for whatever reason on our pewsheet: Paula Conder, Jeanette Jackson, Sheila Boudreau, Olive Elves, Stephen Cooper, Peter Harris, baby Luca Mabert, Oliver Britton, Christine Roderick, Liz Smith, Anne England, Martin Reed, Bob Burt, Penny and Douglas Mitchell, Martyn Gray and Pat Kilbride

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill, the dying and those who have died recently including Jean Peters, Patricia Wells, Christopher Martin, Kirsty Robinson, Lionel Elliston and any known to us personally, that they may know your comfort and peace. We also remember Ethel Grinbergs, Gladys King, Lily Armishaw, Marion Hopgood, Paddy Kilbride and Joan Smith at the anniversary of their death.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we get our hands dirty this week going about our mundane, simple tasks, may we hear you whispering words of love and wisdom to us and may we in turn strive to live lives of value, knowing that whatever our circumstances, we are loved and cared for by you.

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