

HT INTERCESSIONS
Sunday 27th August 2017

“In the quietness of this place Lord, hear our prayers, and let our pleas come unto you.”

Heavenly Father, we pray for your *church* worldwide, which is the communion of all Christian people, not their buildings. A communion which is *one* in the greatness of your love, but *divided* by the smallness of our own. Help us to be less occupied with the things that divide us, and more with those things which unite us. Lord grant us increased tolerance, a deeper understanding, and a genuine unity, with all our neighbours in Christ.

Bless Archbishop Justin, Steven and Colin our bishops, Toby our rector, Ross our curate, and all the clergy and laity who support them. Grant to them all, and the members of their councils, wisdom and patience, as they seek to heal disunity, and to bear witness in the community. We ask you to pour your Holy Spirit on Ness, as she prepares for her licencing, and her service with us here.

“Lord, through our lives, and by our prayers, your kingdom come.”

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

Heavenly Father, in these troubled times, we pray for the communities around the world, which are being torn apart by senseless, cowardly atrocities. Be with families and friends in their grief, and strengthen the resolve of all those who strive for unity, and a peaceful way of living.

We pray for those affected by the recent disasters around the world: fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, hurricanes, droughts and famine, and the consequences of disease. Bless the relief services and volunteers, who work tirelessly to bring succour and support. Guide national governments and local councils, which are tasked with rebuilding shattered communities. May *we* help *too*, by giving of our money, our time, or our talents.

“Lord grant that we who dwell secure, in this insecure world, may be generous in caring for the displaced and the traumatised.”

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

Heavenly Father, we pray for the unity of *families*; for those recently united in marriage; and for parents and children preparing for baptism. We ask for your unifying Holy Spirit, to heal the families that have broken down, where partners fight, and children are abused or neglected. And those families torn apart by recent tragedies. At this holiday season, bless those away from home, seeking rest and refreshment.

Be with those who have recently received the results of their public exams. Rejoice with the successful, and comfort the disappointed. Support them all in their deliberations, about the next phase of their young lives.

“Father, we come to you as children. Be with us as we learn to see one another with new eyes, hear one another with new hearts, and treat one another in new ways.”

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

Heavenly Father, we pray for those in our community who are sick, sad, lonely, anxious or distressed; and for those who support them. Grant to us all, the love that gives, without expectation of a response or a reward.

Today we ask you to give peace and hope to: -

Lord, we pray for the dead, for the unity of the souls of the departed; and for those who remember their *earthly* lives, and mourn.

We pray for the souls of those who have recently died in tragedy.
(And also for:-

“Father, protect those whom we love, but who are separated from us. Guide them when they are uncertain, comfort them when they are lonely or afraid, and bless them with the warmth of your presence. We thank you that neither space, nor time, can cut us off from the love we have in each other, and in you.”

Now let us bring our own silent prayers before God.

“Heavenly Father, send down on us, the blessing of your wisdom, The patience of your strength, and the life of your spirit.”

**Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers,
For the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**