

Sunday 16th January – The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Prayers written by Frank Le Poidevin

Father God, we pray for your church worldwide. In this week of Prayer for Christian Unity we pray in particular for understanding, and for peace and unity among all Christian traditions. We pray for archbishops and bishops; endue them with wisdom and insight in their leadership roles. We pray for all priests, ministers, and teachers; give them strength and inspiration as they seek to spread abroad your gospel of love and peace. We pray for all Christian people ; give to us all the faith to believe, and the confidence to proclaim you as Lord and to reflect your goodness and truth day by day.

Father God, we pray for our world. We pray for all who are oppressed, whose lives are ruled by fear, who have fled their homes and do not know where to turn for help and safety, and we pray for all refugees. We pray for those who are attempting to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of natural disasters - floods, fires, hurricanes, typhoons. We pray for the leaders of all nations that they may set aside all personal ambitions and seek to govern their peoples with wisdom, integrity and justice for all.

Father God, we pray for our local community: for our parish and borough councillors; give them discretion and integrity, concern for those in need, wisdom to perceive what is for the general good; for our doctors, nurses and all members of the health, welfare, and caring services; give them skill, patience and compassion in their work of healing and caring; for our schools and youth organisations; guide and encourage those who teach, give a love of learning to those who learn - especially in these difficult times; for our Police and security services; grant them discernment as they seek to keep our community safe and secure. For our shopkeepers and businesses which cater for our daily needs, and for all who work in any way to make our village and community a pleasant place in which to live.

Father God, we give thanks for our families and friends and for the comfort and security of our homes, as we pray for all who are sick in mind, body or spirit, at home, in hospital or hospice, for the oppressed and broken-hearted, the housebound and lonely, the old and feeble and those nearing the end of life. We remember especially those known to us who are ill: Jan Banks; Ken Cathcart; Dorothy Lawrence; Hazel Chapman; John Leaworthy; Donald Rooke; Ellen Vigar; Linda Tuthill; Roger Hoare; Christine Eaton; Stella Barnes.

Give them all courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Father God, comfort those who mourn as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, including Daphne Hoyle, Sister Heike Cordes and Denise Hiller. According to your promises, grant us a share in your eternal kingdom. From our remembrance book we remember today and give thanks for the lives of: Phyllis Delaney; Antony Burbidge; Myrtle Lester; Joyce Pulford; Clement Horner; Richard Merrick.

Father God, grant us the faith which is sure and certain the faith which is loyal to you in any situation; grant us the hope which will never despair the hope which, in spite of failure, will never give in; grant us the love which is always ready to forgive the love which is always eager to help and the love which is always happier to give than to get; and so grant that living in faith, in hope, in love, we may live more like Jesus.

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