

Sunday 27 April – Second Sunday of Easter

Prayers written by Yvonne Toms

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Father, we come before you in prayer with the joy of the Easter message, that Christ is indeed Risen and that our faith is in a living Saviour who brings the promise of salvation to us all. Loving God, we pray for the power of your Spirit in our lives to build on what is good, and to help change what needs to be changed. We pray that we may be faithful in responding to your call to grow as the people you have called us to be, that we may ring out your praises through the way we live each day.

Faithful God, strength of all those who believe and the hope of those who doubt; may we have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing and his gift of peace; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Father we pray for our Church and for this place of prayer, constantly adapting to an ever-changing world whilst holding on to and proclaiming what is timeless and universal. Let it never lose its vision of establishing your kingdom here on earth, that it may use every opportunity to speak boldly of the truth that is of a risen Lord and Saviour of all.

Enable this church to do your will

Make it outward looking that it may care deeply

Make it a community of peacemakers and bridge builders

Let the church make space for the hearing of your still small voice.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Father, we pray for our nation, especially for those both in national and in local government faced with the task of making difficult decisions which will affect us all. We pray that all our elected leaders or appointed officials will work together for the good of all sections of the community with wisdom, humility and justice.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Father, we pray for our own community and especially today we pray for our local schools We pray for children and young people, for all teaching and support staff and for all voluntary sector organisations working with young people including TYPO. May seeds of love be sown in hearts and minds to bear rich fruit for the future of our world and the growth of your Kingdom,

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for our world and especially for places where there is fighting and conflict:-

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the peoples of Ukraine, Russia and the Middle East today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray for those who especially need God's help at this time. We pray for friends and family who are unwell and remember them in the quietness of our hearts. We bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need and that your healing power is still the same in the past, present and future. From our own community we pray for Alfred Johnson, Jan Barker and all known to us.

Lord, remind us that you have travelled this way before us. Bind up our wounds and bring us back to the foot of the Cross.

May we be at peace.

May our hearts remain open.

May we be aware of our true nature.

May we be healed.

May we be a source of healing to others.

May we dwell in the Breath of God.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We remember those who have died and those who love them:-

We pray for those all those who mourn and who miss the company and care of loved ones. We pray that as we journey onwards, that the challenges of Lent and the promises of Easter will bring to all who mourn new strength and new hope.

Today we remember especially the family and friends of Stephen Castell, Donald Clough, Patricia Guerrier, Brian Chafer and Pope Francis.

From our memorial book, we give thanks for the lives of Richard Mansfield, John Musselwhite, Robert Guest and Mary Ann Corner.

We thank you for lives well-lived and for loved shared and that you hold all within your peace and everlasting love.

We give you thanks today for the life and work of Pope Francis.

Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them
and the peace in which they rest.

We praise you today for your servant Francis
and for all that you did through him.

Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,
we commend your servant, Francis.
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Enfold him in the arms of your mercy,
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace
and in the glorious company of the saints in light.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

Risen Christ, as we go out into the world, we ask that you walk with us each day along our own Emmaus road and open our eyes to the vision you have for each one of us. Let our faith in your resurrected glory be like that of Thomas and all of your faithful disciples so that we too can declare my Lord and my God.

Risen Christ, for whom nor door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

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