

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

### Prayers written by Jenny Cass

Lord God, you are the Father of all people and we come before you today with our prayers, knowing that you will hear us, help us and guide us. Dear Lord we thank you for your love which freely forgives and welcomes us into the family of your church. We pray for your church today, gathering all around the world to praise you and hear your word. Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go.

*Lord hear us.... Lord graciously hear us.*

Loving God we pray for the world. You created the world and care for all creation but the world right now feels fragile and very vulnerable. The harrowing scenes from India have shocked the world as the country struggles with the soaring cases of Covid, many have died, many are very unwell and there is a desperate shortage of oxygen. You taught us to love our neighbour and to care for those in need. We give thanks that the UK and other countries are responding to help India by sending medical equipment and the promise of sharing vaccines that are so desperately needed. Dear Lord please sustain and support all who are anxious and fearful, give strength and comfort.

*Lord hear us... Lord graciously hear us.*

We pray for peace in the world. For all caught up in wars and conflicts including Syria and Yemen, Afghanistan, Myanmar and many others. We pray for all who are fleeing their countries to avoid war and persecution and desperately looking for a safe and peaceful place to call home. Guide the world leaders and those in authority to work towards solutions to bring help and peace. We give thanks for the tireless work of all the aid workers.

*Lord hear us.... Lord graciously hear us.*

As the local county elections take place on 6 May, we pray for those who are standing for election. May we be faithful in our prayers for our parish, borough and county councillors, and for the Police and Emergency Services that there will be strong leadership. We pray that our local communities, and our neighbourhoods be places of trust and friendship, where all are respected and cared for. We give thanks for all our local schools, for all young people and their teachers especially dealing with all the restrictions they now have in place to keep them safe. We pray for Andy our Youth worker as he explores opportunities to work with the Essex Youth Service in Tiptree. Lord we are so grateful for all those who work in our shops and local businesses. We pray for the Food Bank for all the volunteers and users. We give thanks for the work of

our healthcare professionals, for our Medical centres, hospitals, nursing homes and hospices.

*Lord hear us.... Lord graciously hear us.*

Dear Lord we want to tell you about those who are on our hearts and minds today. Those we know who are battling illness and in daily pain. Some may be anxiously awaiting tests or results of tests; be housebound or in nursing homes; or feeling anxious, sad and lonely. We particularly pray for: Jan Banks, Margaret Wilding, Ken Cathcart, Dorothy Lawrence, Hazel Chapman, John Leaworthy, Pat Bolton, Lisa. We come to you Lord Jesus, to ask that all those we have on our hearts this morning, may experience your healing presence, may they and us, be assured of your love, your compassion and power through the Holy Spirit.

We remember today the family and friends of those who have recently died: Jill South, Stanley Winn, Brian Hultquist, Roy Copsey, Gwen Bell. Dear Lord please comfort and strengthen all those who mourn.

From the Memorial book, we remember and give thanks for the lives of: Mary Corner, Evelyn Hultquist, Glennece Giles, Frederick Murray, Duncan Nutt.

*Lord hear us.....Lord graciously hear us.*

Heavenly Father, the vine grower, we ask that your Spirit may work in and through us so we may bear much fruit for your Kingdom.

*Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*