

Intercessions for Sunday 28 June 2020

by Harold Chaplin

Father God we live in such Challenging times.... May we avoid glib answers to those who would challenge us as Christians .. as Tom Wright theologian reminds us that

'We the Church, share the pain of the world, as Jesus himself did, weeping in front of Lazarus' tomb. We cry out like the psalmist in psalm 44 'Wake up oh Lord. Why do you sleep? Do not reject us forever'.

Are we exhausted by the continuous flow of bad news in the papers and on the web? May we be reminded that we are in receipt of God's free gift - eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord. This should keep us buoyed up not with an artificial :-) but in a proactive attitude of love and compassion towards our friends family and neighbours. We have been given something which is for sharing.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

We pray as we have prayed during the whole of this lockdown for all those involved in research to find a new vaccine with the greatest speed before the economies of the world have great difficulty in functioning for the benefit of their peoples. Give patience and inspiration to those involved in pharmaceutical research.

We pray especially for those afflicted with the virus. in the UK We give thanks for the amazing work of carers and workers for the NHS.

Give special wisdom to our government ministers as the lockdown constraints are relaxed.

We are anxious now when we see crowds. So we pray for the forces of Law and order in this country. We recently heard from the Christian police Association who asked us to offer prayer for them and their noble work.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

Here at Saint Andrew's and Saint Mary's we thank you Lord for the inspiration and leadership of our team, for Alan, for Wendy, for Bill and the generous number of people who have given their time to writing Thoughts for the Day. We look forward to their publication as a book.

We give thanks also for the work of Tracy with our young people. Thank you for her imagination in holding their attention at this time and helping to stimulate their spirituality.

We give thanks for the technology that has been so important to us at this time for fellowship albeit in a virtual form and we pray for the day that we will be able to meet again in church.

We may be preoccupied with the virus at this time but we must not forget to pray for those whose health is suffering in a particular way at this time whether it be physical or mental. We bring before you Jean, Lucy, Debbie, Paul, Colin, Julia, Joe, Bernard, Mark, Wendy, Barbara, Andy, Pat, Tim, Chris.

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

And now we remember those who have passed into the next life... Remembering also their friends and family who must be particularly grieving at this time when restrictions have been placed upon attending funeral ceremonies.

Suhad, Melanie

We remember in Years 'Mind those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Dorothy Rew, Percy Brooks, Ama Maynar, Clara Stocks

LORD IN YOUR MERCY

A final prayer for our church - Lord, we ask you to shape our life together in such a way that we develop habits both spiritual and practical with lifestyles that attract people to you. Show us how to

be distinctly 'under new management' and live lives of worship and welcome

We say together 'Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord'