

Intercessions for Sunday 24th January 2021

By Christopher Maunder Taylor

Let us pray for courage to search for a state of Grace in our lives.

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for your guidance through troubled times. We pray for spiritual and pastoral leadership and give thanks for our Bishops, Priests and Deacons thinking especially of those in our Diocese of St Albans and our Parishes of St Andrews and St Marys, particularly Alan and Wendy and Bill.

We pray for our secular leaders: for the Government, for Parliament and for Local Authorities at all levels. Guard and guide our leaders in your ways O Lord, reminding them always that whatever they say or do, is done or said for our sake and in our name.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray that we find that sense of compassion. Compassion for those who are troubled, distressed or unwell in any way and compassion for those who have been bereaved. We pray especially for:

Julie, Colin, Bernard, Maureen, Mark, Tim, Paul and Suzanne, Susan, Imogen, Gwen and her family and Barbara.

Hoping and praying for their swift recovery and also giving thanks for the recovery of Peter.

And we pray for the souls of those who have died, whether known to us or not and especially for the Souls of:

David Gee, Robert Belgrove, Ted Nadkarni, Pamela Carter, Pamela Goodman, Patrick Harris, John Probert, Joan Walton and Jean Stannard.

Giving thanks for their company and companionship whilst they were amongst us.

We remember also all those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Theo Maynard, Margaret Pearl Aitken, Tom Ruffles and Peggy Gill.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray too that you grant us the Grace and Humility to show compassion and generosity to others who are less fortunate than we are ourselves, both here in this Town, in this Country and also elsewhere in the World. Teach us O Lord, how to give without counting the cost, nor seeking any reward, other than knowing that we do your will.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And we beseech you O Lord, to help us:

Always to search for peace in the World.

Always to be courageous and cheerful.

Always to abide by what we know to be right.

Never to repay evil with evil.

Always to comfort those who are afraid.

to help those who need to be supported.

to look after anyone who is sick in body or in mind.

Always to be respectful towards anyone and everyone.

And above all else:

To love and serve you O Lord with all our mind and with all our might.

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