

Prayers for 23rd August 2020, 11th Sunday after Trinity

Dear Lord, we are thankful we can come together today to pray in your name and ask for your blessing on us. We pray for those who are unable to join us in church due to the current pandemic. Unite us all in strength and faith, to extend your message of love in a strange new socially distanced world. Remind us that however distanced we need to be from each other, you are never distanced from us, your love is exempt from the, “two metre rule, you encourage us to stay close to you, always.

Lord in your mercy....*hear our prayer*

Heavenly Father, prayer is how we actively practice believing, it is where we let petitions and praises shape our worries and concerns. We are reminded that prayer is never the last resort of God's people, it's the first point of action. May we continue to grow our power of prayer and Christian fellowship.

Lord in your mercy....*hear our prayer.*

Holy Father, with many people having had their working hours cut, or sadly losing their employment all together, the recession will no doubt cause even more anxiety for individuals and families. Some of whom are already experiencing the toughest of times. We are reminded that fortunes can change without warning and beyond our control. We humbly pray that you guide those of us with the resources, talents and skills to willingly aid the needy and vulnerable.

Lord in your mercy....*hear our prayer*

Dear Lord, we ask for your protection in these times of social unrest, we pray that our leaders retain integrity and act for the common good, not for personal gain, power or profit, but to endeavour to achieve fairness and look after the weak in society. Guide them to act as Jesus did, “loving our neighbour's”, without condition or reward.

Lord in your mercy....*hear our prayer*

Lord, we graciously ask for your blessing on our communities here at home and the wider world. The news and media stories are dominated with the devastating effects of covid, we hear about loved ones lost, we hear about certain education sectors in chaos, industries in decline, and a halt to the things that were once normal to do. But amongst the dark times are stories of hope, pupils in Scotland returning safely to school. Our dedicated key workers

are continuing their important roles, and the quiet hero's in society who respond to the welfare of others before their own. We ask you to give them resilience in these challenging times, protect them from danger and grant them rest and peace.

Lord in your mercy....*hear our prayer*

Father, we sometimes dismay at the negative actions of those who are selfish and cause unnecessary harm to the environment. Sadly, some people have no regard for our local beauty spots and parks. Some take the liberty to fly tip as they see fit, and let others count the cost and toil of clearing up the mess. On a bigger scale we are all guilty in some way of contributing to the earth's increasing pollution. Help us all, to be responsible and understand the urgent need for healing our broken world. We pray all people will act and do their part in restoring beauty and balance back to save our precious planet.

Lord in your mercy...*hear our prayer*

Loving God, we pray for your hand to touch the lives of those suffering in body, mind and spirit. Comfort the families and friends of those who are lonely, isolated and feeling helpless at this time. We pray for the sick...(names)....and continue to pray for.....(names), bless them and keep them reassured they are truly loved and cared for. We pray for all those who have passed away, those known personally to us, still in our thoughts and remembered fondly. We give thanks for the lives of the recently departed....(names). Embrace all those who mourn, and help them to remember that their loved ones are at peace and rejoice in your eternal kingdom of glory.

Lord in your mercy....*hear our prayer.*

Finally, Lord may we work together to help the seeds of your kingdom take root and flourish in our lives and all the world. Encourage us to build a positive future as your living servants to do your will and answer your call no matter how challenging the world has become.

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

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