

Prayers 24th January 2021

In this week of the inauguration of a new president in the United States, this prayer is adapted from the letter sent by the Pope:

We pray for Joe Biden, the 46th President of the United States of America.

Almighty God, grant wisdom and strength in his exercise of high office.

Under his leadership, we pray that the people of America continue to be true to the lofty political, ethical and religious values that inspired the nation.

At a time when the grave crises facing all humanity call for far sighted and united responses,

we pray that his decisions will be guided by a concern for building a society marked by authentic justice and freedom,

together with unfailing respect for the rights and dignity of every person, especially the poor, the vulnerable and those who have no voice.

We pray that he will be guided in efforts to foster understanding, reconciliation and peace within the United States and among the nations of the world in order to advance the universal common good.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for all the world's leaders, with difficult decisions to make affecting the lives of so many. May they be guided not by any personal agenda, but work for the common good of all, that this world might be led to a better place, where trust and honesty are the values both sought and demonstrated in those we choose to lead us.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for our community -
that snapshot of humanity with all ages, backgrounds,
education, employment status, politics and religious viewpoint
who are our neighbours in the streets where we live.
All are in need of your love at this time.
Bless their homes and families,
and let your love and peace so shine within this community
that smiles turn to conversations, and strangers become friends.
Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for your Christians everywhere, that the Gospel of Christ will continue to be spread.

We pray for our own Church of England and our Diocese of St. Albans, its clergy and its staff as it manages the demands and restrictions of our present times.

We pray for our own church here, for Charles and Gill and for all who give of their time and talents to carry forward the work of Christian witness in this place.

Guide us to be the servants to our community that you want us to be.

Lord in Your Mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God we pray for all whose day starts with anxiety, particularly those whose health or age classifies them as vulnerable.

Loving God, be close, keep them safe.

We give thanks for the vaccinations developed in protection against Covid-19, praying that the targets of delivery will be met and that those who work to bring it about may be sure of our support and thanks.

Bless all who work in stressful situations; healthcare, teaching, law enforcement, social services, transport and other occupations where patience, love and perseverance can wear thin, and daily stress levels rise.

Keep them safe and keep them well,
equipped to follow their vocation through this most difficult of times.

And for all of us, grant wisdom to make sensible choices, not just for ourselves, but for everybody.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Gracious God, let us never forget,
as daily life becomes more difficult
and restrictions cause annoyance,
that there are many for whom this has been normality for years;
affected by long-term drought or destructive storms; struggling
in poverty, or through violence
forced to adopt the life of refugee.
May we remember to be thankful for what we have, and work together
selflessly for all who need our help.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for those who are not well
surround the frightened with your tenderness;
give strength to those in pain;
hold the weak in your arms of love,
and give hope and patience
to those who are recovering.

We bring before you:

Zachary Sayers, Karen Wade, Deryck Flashman, Kireet and Bhav Parmar,

Pauline Pincham, Richard Pilbeam, Ron Bowler, Helen and Paul Campbell,
Samantha Sayers, Karin Vallis, Angela Fox, Harry Waller, and Ed Thompson

Lord in Your Mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the lives of:

Simon Woodmore, Les Turner, Michael Vickars, and Fred Atkinson

And bring before you their families and friends that in facing their loss they may be comforted and embraced by your love.

Lord in Your Mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Generous God, for all that sustains us;
air to breathe, warmth and light, food to eat, water to drink,
we offer our thanks and praise.

For spiritual gifts that bind us together;
one people, one body, empowered for service
we offer our hands and voices.

For the Good News of the Gospel;
healing and wholeness, freedom and justice
we offer our hearts in service and in prayer.

Lord Jesus, today you have spoken to us and reminded us of your authority.

Help us to deal with our fears and anxieties.

Help us to embrace the concerns of those around us.

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