

Intercessions for the Second Sunday of Epiphany 17/1/21

*Written by Annette Leveridge*

Lord Hear Us; **Lord Graciously Hear Us**

Loving God, on this second Sunday of Epiphany, we bring our prayers before you asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all that we do. We pray for your blessing and guidance for Deborah Scott and Richard who nurture our spiritual and social needs. We give thanks that through them we can continue to worship in our own homes. We pray for our Church leaders, Archbishop Justin, the Bishop of St Albans Alan and the Bishop of Hertford Michael. Accept our prayers for the President of Methodist Conference Richard and Vice President Carolyn and our District Chair David. In the Anglican Communion we pray for the Anglican Church in Australia and in the Methodist Church we pray for Christians in North and South India and in our own country the Lincolnshire District. Within our Diocese we pray for the members of the Ampthill and Shefford Church and the community it serves. In our Deanery we pray for the Churches in Mill End West Hyde and Heronsgate with their vicar Simon and in our Circuit Studham Methodist Church and their Minister Gill.

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As we acknowledge all the pastoral work and business administration that our leaders at St Mary's undertake, our Church Administrator, our Church Wardens, the Treasurer and Church Council members with Deborah, we give thanks for all that they do to keep us an active and caring Church, and pray that they may feel Your guiding hand. We ask for your blessing on all those we love. We think of loved ones who live far from us who we may not have seen for many months, families who may live in different parts of the world, for friends and relatives who need help which we are unable to give. Help us as we find ways to communicate with them that we may feel less separated.

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Let us pray for our young people. We pray for the pupils and staff at St Mary's Primary School and other schools in our Parish giving thanks for the hard work and dedication of all the staff to teach these young children at home and in school. We pray for older children who have had so much disruption in their studies lately, that they may take learning opportunities that are offered to them and not become discouraged. We pray for University students who may be studying in a restricted environment at home or in college and for their tutors who give them the support which is so much needed today.

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O God our Father, we ponder on all the troubles across the world that we continue to hear about and feel helpless to change. For refugees without a home or status, for those persecuted for their faith. We pray for countries who are experiencing political unrest and rebellion that there may be peace and reconciliation amongst their peoples.

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As the new President of The United States of America is sworn in this week we pray that justice and peace will prevail.

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As we stand in the midst of a devastating pandemic let us pray for all the dedicated NHS and key workers who strive tirelessly to care for us all. We pray the sick and the dying as a result of the virus and for all who wait anxiously for the vaccine available to so many over the next few months. We ask that You will bless those in our Church who have asked for our prayers. Katrina, Margaret, Henry, Trevor, Mary, Pat, Jaleh, Charlie, Frankie, Grace, Katy, Kerry, Mary, Steve, Ted, Tim. We pray that they may feel your healing hand and gain the peace that only You can give.

Comfort those who have recently been bereaved and those who approach an anniversary of the death of a loved one. Help us to support those who feel lonely and dispirited at this time.

**Lord Hear Us; Lord Graciously Hear Us**

On this second Sunday of Epiphany, let us complete our prayers with this verse of a well-known Carol.

In the heavenly country bright

Need they no created light

Thou its light its joy its crown

Thou its sun which goes not down

Thine for ever may we sing

Allelujahs to our King

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

**Amen**