

## Church Intercessions 26.04.2020 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 11-18; 1 Peter 1.13-25;  
Luke 24.13-35 or Matthew 28.8-15a

**Almighty, everlasting and Creator God** – who out of the very stuff of stars created a dazzling, wonderful yet often puzzling world. We come before you now in prayer knowing that you sent Jesus to help us make sense of it and in doing so to help us find our way to the salvation and eternal life that he offers to all. So we pray for that world and it's people with all kinds of questions and needs.

Lord, as we bring to you our prayers of intercession, we ask you to open our ears to hear your voice, open our eyes to behold your glory, open our hearts to receive your grace, open our lips to show forth your praise as our world faces many threats due to our failure to heed your word. Lord you have given us wisdom and creativity and the means to pool our knowledge for the common good. We are heartened by the news that this work has produced a reduction in the number of people succumbing to covid-19 and pray that this will be seen as an example to all people that if we work together we can accomplish much and successfully defeat that which attempts to destroy us.

Lord in your mercy

Loving Lord in your Son, Jesus Christ, you call all people to yourself. We pray for all those who already know of your love, those who are at the beginning of their journey with you and those that wait to hear your voice. We pray that you will lead them all and keep them safe in your hands always.

Lord we bring you our prayers for our families, for those that are growing up that they may increase in wisdom and love, for those facing changes, that they may meet them with hope, for those that are weak that they may find strength, for those with heavy burdens that they, may carry them lightly. You show yourself to those that are vulnerable and make your home with the poor and the weak of this world.

We thank you for the work of partners, for the hospitality of neighbours, the generosity of strangers, for those who give of themselves to help others, for those who refuse to be silent in the face of injustice. We pray especially for the medical staff tending and testing those with the covid virus.

We pray that you will protect the healthy, calm the frightened, give courage to those in pain, strengthen those who care for the sick, support the teachers who are working tirelessly to bring education to our young people and to those that govern our nation, give discernment and wisdom.

Lord in your mercy

Father God, we give thanks for a forward-thinking diocese and our ability to outreach without moving from our homes. Using new skill sets, creativity and compassion we are able to send words of comfort and offer practical help to those within the church and the wider community.

Lord in your mercy

Caring God, at this time of sickness from the pandemic, we ask that you console the bereaved and comfort the dying and give to the dead eternal life.

Lord in your mercy

Elusive God, companion on the way, you walk behind, beside and beyond; you catch us unawares. Break through the disillusionment and despair clouding our vision, as with the disciples, that, with wide-eyed wonder, we may find our way and journey on as messengers of your good news. Transform us through your word, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand not only what you do on our behalf, but what you call us to do so that your kingdom will come to fruition and rise in glory.

Amen

