

**St Paul's Letchworth
Intercessions - 26th February**

Reflection on Lent:

Lord, as we mark the first Sunday of Lent we pray that you will walk with us on our journey of self-reflection.

That you will help us protect the time to look back on our actions, words and deeds. To analyse the times that we have strayed from your path and to consider the times we have given into temptation and the journey that act has taken us on.

We pray for your forgiveness in those times that we have strayed. We pray for your help in resisting those things that tempt us, those things that could take us down the wrong path.

But above all this we celebrate you. We celebrate your gift, your love, your forgiveness and your mercy. We celebrate the power you bring into our lives, the hope and the peace.

As we each go on our journey this Lent we pray we will hold tightly to these things.

In your mercy. Hear our prayers.

Prayer for ourselves:

Lord, we thank you for the blessings you have brought into our lives. The joy and happiness of family, community and church. The times we can celebrate and cherish.

But Lord, for many of us life is tough right now. The pressures of life and the day to day challenges that we all face often leave us weary, stressed and spent. Left us wanting to pull up the drawbridge and to shut others out.

In these moments fill us up. Energise us and transform us. Break down our drawbridge. Speak your spirit and word into our lives. Lift us, inspire us and relieve us.

We pray that we will remember that in those tough times you will go from walking alongside us to carrying us. That you will take the burden and speak into the things that are taxing us.

As we go about our lives this week we pray that we can remember this.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayers.

Prayer for our community:

Lord, we thank you for the gift of community. The chance for fellowship. The chance to meet together to praise your name. And the chance to build ties that bind us.

We are reminded of the cord of three strands that is not easily broken. The strands of you, church and self that unite us, strengthen us and safe guard us.

We pray for our community here in Letchworth. That all may know your name. That all may know your love. We pray that St Paul's can be a space that can help people when faced with impossible choices. That it can help relieve worry and powerlessness and replace it with joy and hope.

We pray for the communities that we are each part of. At work, through friends and through our calling to help others. I pray that you will influence each of these. We pray especially for our mission partners in Mongolia and Albania.

As we connect with others this week we pray that we can do so with love.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayers.

Prayer for our world:

Lord, it's hard to look at the news sometimes. Hard to process the tragedy we see daily.

We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria, as they continue to respond to the devastating earthquakes that cost so many lives. We pray for all trying to rebuild homes, towns and cities. We pray especially for children in these areas. That they have safe spaces to play and and have their childhood protected..

We pray for an end to the war in Ukraine and an end to violence and conflict everywhere. We pray that peace will prevail in these conflicts and the work of rebuilding can begin.

But Lord, whilst tragedy can often dominate our headlines let us remember that it does not dominate your world. A world full of love and beauty. A world that has seen deforestation in the Amazon slow following the election of a new leader in Brazil. Or the Great Barrier Reef being protected from a new Coal mining project. Or countless people sacrificing their time every single day to help and support others.

Lord as we all experience the world this week we pray that we can stop and look and see the beauty amongst it all.

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