

Intercessions - 12th May

Lord, we thank you for the blessing of this day. For the sunshine, for the community and for the hope that you breathe into us. Lord, we pray that you settle us and clear our minds as we contemplate your word and your presence.

Lord, you know our heart better than anyone. You know our challenges, our frustrations, our dilemmas. You know the way that we act, think and prepare. With this knowledge we ask that you guide us and shape us. To help us always put faith over fear, to put our load on your shoulders and our trust firmly in you.

**Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Father as we contemplate how the disciples were sent into the world, how they spread your word and brought glory to your kingdom. We pray that we can do the same, here at St Paul's.

We thank you for the vision of this church, for your tireless servants. We thank you for the blessing of two new church wardens, and pray that they settle into their duties and ministries well. We thank you for the new and returning members of the PCC who will help guide the church along the road ahead.

We ask that you bless the ministry that comes from this family - on Sunday and every day of the week. Through the youth work, the outreach and the care as well as the actions of each member of the congregation.

**Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Lord, as we go out into this world we see the challenges that it faces. Conflicts in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine that cost so many lives; the dangers and impact of climate change both today and in our future; the pain caused by the cost of living crisis and senseless violence on streets and in homes.

All these things seem insurmountable, a mountainous challenge that we alone cannot shift. But we take comfort in the fact that you can. That no task is too great or too complex for you. We ask that you protect those affected and bring your peace and calm down over these situations.

As we consider these challenges and a world that this year will be transformed by elections, we ask that political leaders take their inspiration from your teachings and seek to always act with love, decency and integrity.

**Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.**

Father, as we go out today we pray that we can marvel at your world. The majesty of your creation. We pray that we will find the time to pause, to breathe it all in. To see the goodness and love that drives it. And hold that close to our hearts as we begin our weeks.

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