

Intercessions for 10a.m. 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025

O Lord, open our lips to pray with understanding.

O Lord, open our minds to pray with sincerity and love,  
as we join together now, in prayer.

Father God, teach us how life is really meant to be, and how to live it well. Teach us our meaning and purpose, and how to value ourselves as you value us. Teach us, we pray, when it is time to rest and when to be productive. Help us to be still and listen to you, and to trust in your goodness and grace. May we follow Jesus' example and as His disciples to grow more like Him each day.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*

Lord, we pray for all who are overwhelmed by demands on their time, their skills and their life. Those we know who are stressed, pressured and anxious. For all who are suffering because they cannot get a good work life balance. Those whose tough jobs or family life are too demanding, or who feel they are only valued for what they achieve. We pray that they would come to you, lay their burdens at your feet and find relief in your presence and grace.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*

As we pray for others in this world, we would lift to you all those affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles. We pray your blessing on all who have lost their homes and possessions, their livelihoods and communities and especially all who have lost loved ones. Breathe comfort, reassurance and hope into their fear, distress and anxiety. We pray that all the support and resources needed are provided in abundance.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*

May your way of love and peace prevail in all areas of the world where there is conflict, Lord, we pray. In particular, today, we ask that the peace treaty agreed

between Israel and Palestine may be a lasting settlement, that continues through all its planned phases with each side fulfilling their obligations. It is our fervent prayer that hostages and prisoners may be released promptly, that humanitarian aid may reach those in need at speed and that there may be stability and security throughout the whole area. We continue to remember before you all people who are suffering injury or mourning the loss of loved ones, or whose homes, businesses and futures have been ruined.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*

Lord we lift our own family to you. Protect our loved ones, guide them, keep them safe, we pray. Give us love and understanding so we can support and encourage each other. Fill our homes with your presence, may they be places of comfort and security where kindness and thoughtfulness abound. We bring to you all our difficult relationships and the stresses and tensions of family life. We pray for all who are unhappy and all who are unable to treat others fairly. In a few moments of silence, let's lift to God the people and situations we are concerned about and ask for His blessing on them.

PAUSE

Lord may the light and love of Jesus shine through all we think, do and say.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*

Grant those who are ill, peace and healing. Comfort those who mourn - and lift up those who are depressed and tired of life, we pray.

We thank you, Father, for your unending love and grace. Guide us in the paths of righteousness and give us your peace and protection, today and throughout the week. May we know you are with us always and for ever.

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