

## **Sunday 17 March 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Lent**

### **Prayers written by Ruth Le Poidevin**

Let us pray to the God who loves us and understands our needs. We come thanking you, Lord, for the fellowship and friendship which we find as we worship; for the meeting of all ages and different personalities; for the strong leadership which we value. We give thanks that we are drawn together in your love. Give us strength to serve you faithfully not only in church but also in the wider community. Challenge us to respond to new opportunities as they are presented.

Lord God, we ask that there may be a seeking after you in our land, that right living and compassion may be worked for. We pray for all initiatives to provide positive opportunities, especially for young people as they grow up in our society with its many distractions. Give energy and inspiration to those who give of their time encouraging the young in schools and colleges to work together to ensure a brighter and more stable future for our society.

All-seeing, God, watch over the nations of the world in all their plans, actions, conflicts and disasters. We are overwhelmed when we hear of the number of people who have been drawn into conflicts in which they wanted no part. We pray now for lives lost; for families torn apart; for the lonely and homeless; the hungry and afraid.

We pray for rescuers as they find survivors among those who did not survive, and as they struggle to bring healing and relief of pain, often without the availability of necessary resources.

As we approach the great festival of Easter with all its sadness but glorious joy we give you thanks that so many people work to bring your goodness in creation to our notice. We praise you for gardeners; for those who keep our surroundings clean and tidy; for those who clear away our waste; and for those who turn that waste into useful commodities. Make us always more aware of contributions we can make to use your goodness to us into advantages for others.

Lord, turn your healing love towards those who are sick and in pain. Clear away from them the things that harm and hinder and grant them comfort. We bring before you: Alfred Johnson; Clare; Jayne Middleton.

Lord, we pray for those who have died and for those who grieve for the loss of their love and company, remembering this morning: Claire Bond; Robert Bond; Pamela Archer; Gwyneth Young; Kathleen Hayhoe; Barbara Moore; Patricia Pinder; Richard Furniss; Geoffrey Rowe; Reginald Riley; Rory Cowie; Christopher Vincent.

From our Memorial Book we remember and give thanks for the lives of: Sylvia Hogben; Edna Millyard; Steven Carlile; Phyllis Monk.

Every morning as we wake:

May we feel the peace that can calm the fiercest storm.

May we feel the love to forgive and then move on.

May we feel the strength to walk and not grow weary.

May we feel the joy that is at the heart of being.

May we feel the presence of God.

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