

Sunday 21 April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Prayers written by Sue Lyne

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life our true Shepherd. As we follow in his footsteps we experience the fellowship of his company, which gives us both courage to do his work and peace of mind, even when life is difficult.

We thank you that from the beginning of the world you have watched over and cared for each person, without prejudice to race, ability, health or achievement. We thank you for sending Jesus, the person of perfections, who revealed your love in his healing, forgiving, encouraging, challenging ways. We thank you for filling us with your Spirit of life and love, which enables each of us to know you and love you and speak with you in prayer.

Thank you, God, for all that you have done for us, even when we have not known or appreciated your activity on our behalf. May we show our gratitude to you not only in our words but also in our deeds, so that what we have received may be shared with all whom you love.

Lord, there is so much injustice in your world; injustice in countries, where some are oppressed, exploited, discriminated against, injustice between nations, where some are destitute, hungry, in debt so that others can live too well. Lord, we pray for all those who are the victims of injustice of any kind.

Lord there is so much conflict in the world; conflict in families, leading to deep wounds and unhappiness, conflict in countries, between races, classes, religions, leading to suspicion, violence and fear; conflict between nations, broken relations, skirmishes, wars, leading to great suffering and pain. We pray for peace Lord and wisdom to those in authority that they may bring an end to such conflict.

We pray for our Church that we may grow strong in your love. Give us all wisdom and discernment as we move forward in our faith knowing you are always there for us. Help us to spread your word guiding us in the way that you have mapped out for us. Let us show your love to all who we meet so that you may shine in our lives and be a reflection to others who long for peace and understanding.

We pray for those known to us who may be suffering in mind, spirit or body. We ask for your healing hand to comfort them, especially Alfred Johnson.

We are on this earth for only a short while so give us courage to do your will and when you call us may we be assured of your grace. We pray at this time for the lives of Neville Taylor and Beryl Brand and ask for your presence to be felt by their families in their time of grief. We pray for those who are remembering the loss of their loved ones, Joan & Paddy Duff, Derek Thompson and Richard Mansfield, may they find comfort in their happy memories of time gone by.

Let us have a moment of silence to bring our own individual requests and thanks to God.

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