

Sunday 28 April – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prayers written by Frank Le Poidevin

Heavenly Father, we pray for your church worldwide: for archbishops, bishops and all who hold positions of authority in the church; for all priests, ministers and teachers, and all who seek to spread abroad your gospel of love and truth. Reveal yourself to us in all your glory and enable us through the power of the Holy Spirit so to order our lives that we reflect your goodness and love wherever we go and whoever we meet.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our country: for our king and members of the royal family; for the prime minister and members of parliament; and for all who are set in authority over us.

We give thanks for the freedom which we enjoy: the freedom of speech, of action and of self-determination.

We pray for those in many parts of the world who are oppressed and who lack any kind of freedom, who live in fear and insecurity. We pray that the leaders of all nations may set aside their personal ambitions and greed and seek instead to rule with wisdom, integrity, and justice for all.

We pray for a peaceful and lasting solution to the problems besetting many nations today.

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who suffer in any way: for the homeless and those without work; for the aged and lonely, the heartbroken, the unloved, the downtrodden.

We give thanks for those, including surgeons, doctors, nurses and care workers, whose lives are devoted to the service of others; who heal the sick and relieve mental suffering, who teach with devotion and skill, who care for the hungry, the homeless and the refugee.

Strengthen and encourage all who give themselves, selflessly, to helping those in need.

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are ill or in pain, especially those who have no-one to confide in, no-one to listen to them. We pray for your love to enfold them, your peace to calm them, your healing power to transform them.

We pray for those of our number who are ill, including Alfred Johnson - and those known only to us.

Heavenly Father, we commend to your love and mercy those who have died to this earthly life, including Beryl Brand and June Harris.

We pray for your comfort and supporting love for their families and friends. From our memorial book we remember and give thanks for the lives of: John Musselwhite; Robert Guest; Mary Corner.

Heavenly Father, may your words of truth take root in our hearts and grow to rich maturity.

May we hear your will for us and act upon it.

May we encourage and nurture one another in faith so that we can go out strong in our weakness and littleness.

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